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THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY JULY 25 1992

Loss-making lines to keep subsidies

Ministers seek to calm fears on BR sell-off

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail's 44-year-old monopoly to provide passenger and freight services is to be abolished under legislation to transfer as many of its functions as possible to the private sector, John MacGregor, the transport secretary, announced yesterday.

Publishing the government's long-awaited rail privatisation white paper, Mr MacGregor said that BR will be divided into two organisations, one responsible for operating infrastructure, and the other for overseeing passenger services — at least until they have been franchised out to private-sector operators. In addition, some of BR's 2,500 stations could be leased or sold to private-sector operators.

The announcement, which confirmed that ministers had backed away from a traditional "big bang" privatisation in favour of a more cautious step-by-step approach, prompted a mixed

reaction from transport commentators. John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, denounced the proposals as a "cherry-picker's charter", while the central transport consultative committee, the government-appointed passenger watchdog, gave a guarded welcome, providing that the new system was properly funded.

The white paper said that private-sector entrepreneurial and management skills had to be brought in to run passenger and freight services. This is to be achieved by an outright sale of BR's freight and parcels sectors, and the progressive franchising of InterCity, Network SouthEast, and Regional Railways passenger services.

Subsidies for loss-making passenger services will be maintained, and any changes to the structure and operation of the railways will be approved only if existing safety standards are preserved. BR's workforce will gradually be transferred to new private-sector companies. Because

the railway is a large, complex, and specialised operation, upon which millions of people depend, "services must not be disrupted by organisational change", the white paper said.

The government wants to ensure that passengers and freight customers continue to enjoy the advantages they get from the national rail network, including through-tickets, discounted fares, and a national timetable, the white paper said.

Responding to the government's initiative, Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, emphasised that success for the railways, public or private, would hinge on continuation of current high investment levels.

"I welcome the commitment to a single network which safeguards the integrity of operation, and I welcome the white paper's commitment to safety," Sir Bob said.

Mr Prescott warned that the government's proposals would do little to modernise Britain's ailing rail network. "This white paper is not passenger's charter. It's more of a cherry-picker's charter, ripe for exploitation by property speculators, route operators bribed by public subsidies", and City advisers who will grow "fat on the commissions and fees in disposing of public assets", he said.

Richard Branson's Virgin company is expected to unveil proposals next week for an express passenger service between Edinburgh and London, while Stagecoach Holdings, the Perth-based transport group, is likely to seek the franchise to run regional rail services between Carlisle and Barrow. Interest in running BR passenger and freight services has also been expressed by Yorkshire Rider, Sea Containers, Charral, the Rail Freight Users Group, and National Power.

Derrick Fullick, the general secretary of Aslef, the train drivers' union, said the "privatisation fanatics have drawn up a timetable for disaster".

Jimmy Knapp, the leader of the National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers said: "The acid test of the government's plans for the railways remains whether they will improve services for all passengers. The proposals set out in the white paper do not meet this test," he said.

However, there is growing fear in Tory ranks about the prospect of a fractious party conference this autumn. Provisional government figures yesterday showed industrial output slipping by 0.6 per cent in May. A survey from Duff & Bradstreet, the business information group, found that 52 per cent of firms expect new orders to be unchanged or to fall over the coming three months.

In the Commons yesterday, Neil Kinnock, at his final question time appearance as Labour leader, called for a change of course on economic policy to avoid Britain being driven deeper into recession. "To continue with the policies of the present is to risk driving the economy down so far as to make the prospect of recovery recede by years," he said.

Recalling Mr Major's elec-

tion time claim that a Tory victory would provide "the spark to ignite recovery", Mr Kinnock said: "No such ignition has taken place and there will be no real recovery as long as you continue with policies that have already brought us two full years of recession." Mr Major replied.

Continued on page 16, col 4

Major willing to increase rates to protect pound

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

DOWNING Street yesterday signalled that the government was ready to increase interest rates if necessary to keep the pound within its bands in the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The pound stayed under pressure in the ERM yesterday, but there proved to be no need for the Bank of England to prop up sterling as the Bank of Italy intervened to sustain the lira. At the London close, at 4pm, the pound stood at DM2.8494, less than half a pfennig below its finishing rate on Monday and more than a pfennig and a half above the point at which the authorities are obliged to prevent it dropping below its effective floor in the ERM bands.

In the latest attempt to shore up the pound, which foreign exchange dealers expect to remain under pressure, and to convince doubters that the government will stick with the ERM through thick and thin, Downing Street disclosed comments by John Major at yesterday's cabinet meeting.

The prime minister told his colleagues: "When we joined the ERM, it was clear that it was not a short-term option. It was a means of ensuring that inflation was reduced to provide a stable basis for sustained economic recovery. Our commitment to it was, and remains, 100 per cent."

Mr Major emphasised that the speech on Friday in which Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that the ERM was "not an optional extra, an add-on to be jettisoned at the first hint of trouble" was the clearest possible statement of government policy. Copies of that

White paper, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Final questions, page 8
A leader misjudged, page 12
Political sketch, page 16

Will there be a choice of delays?

INFORMATION

British Rail

Catena

Cricket umpires to ask third man for advice

By MARTIN SEARBY

VERY soon those men who watch cricket from the stands for professional reasons will have weightier things to judge than whether the fruit cake sent in by Mrs Barrymore of Pincher is more or less tasty than Mrs Bratt's almond shortbread.

Their ranks will include a third umpire, with the power to dismiss a batsman after reviewing a tricky "was-he-wasn't-he?" decision on a television action replay. The armchair judge will relay his decision by walkie-talkie to the two umpires on the field, who will then be able to answer the "Howzat?" they were asked several minutes earlier, by the fielding side. Nobody should feel hard done by, and nobody need curse the umpires. It might slow the pace a fraction, but nobody said true justice would be speedy.

Cricket's move into the electronic age will arrive in November, if proposals to be put to the United Cricket Board of South Africa are approved as expected. For the four-game Test series against India, their first home series since 1970, the South Africans will use television cameras to decide run-outs, stumpings and hit-wickets, with the pictures transmitted to a third umpire in the stands. Cameras will not be used during any of the tour's seven one-day games.

Traditionalists, who winced at aluminium bats, might faint at this new-fangled idea. But Pretoria's plans have been blessed by Sir Donald Bradman, doyen of Test cricketers, who has told South Africa that an electronic eye would "bring justice, as it does on race tracks round the world". He feels that it would lessen umpires' responsibilities without cramping their status in matters of

opinion, such as leg-before decisions and close catches, which television can distort.

Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said in Johannesburg yesterday: "I saw the run-out in the Benson & Hedges final at Lord's on Sunday when the slow motion replay showed Matthew Fleming to be three inches short of his ground, while at normal speed it was impossible for the umpire to give him out. Fielding standards have improved dramatically and made it harder than ever for umpires to get it right all the time."

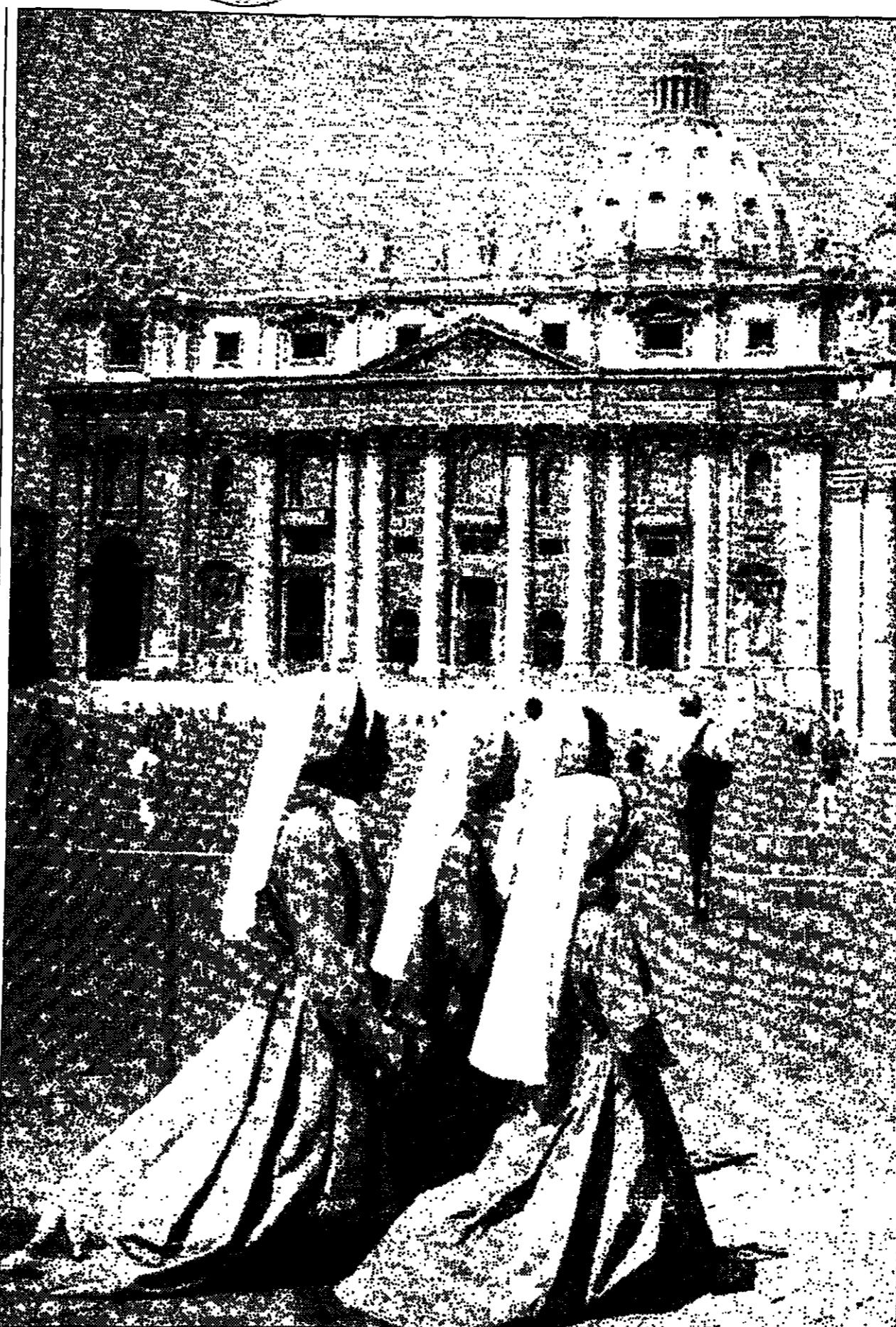
The idea of using three umpires was first mooted by M J K Smith, the former Warwickshire and England captain, when he was on duty as the International Cricket Council referee last winter in Australia. The South African plan is that each pair should

stand for two sessions with the third man watching television replays at normal speed and, if necessary, slow motion, in the stand.

"I discussed this with Mike Smith, who said the umpires were absolutely worn out at the end of a five-day Test with no rest day, and giving them a break should be helpful," Dr Bacher said. "Our own umpires are relatively inexperienced and we want the third man to be independent and give them the benefit of his knowledge."

Harold "Dickie" Bird, England's leading umpire, who has officiated in 46 Tests, is against using three umpires because it "disrupts concentration and continuity". But, as Dr Bacher points out, the third man will not be resting but glued to his monitor in the stands.

County championship reports and scores, page 26



Prayer vigil: Indian nuns kneeling in prayer for the Pope outside St Peter's in Rome yesterday.

Pope faces surgery on benign tumour

By JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Pope is likely to undergo surgery today after tests were said to have shown that he may have a tumour on the colon.

Roman Catholics around the world attended Masses for his recovery, while the man who shot him in 1981 joined the thousands who sent goodwill messages. Meh-

met Ali Agca wounded the Pope in St Peter's Square on May 13, 1981. Reports that the shooting may have led to the Pope's health problems were denied yesterday.

The Vatican did not give details of Agca's message, which was sent to the Pope from the Rebibbia high security prison in Rome where

the Turkish assailant is serving a life sentence for the assassination attempt.

Italian television said the Pope, 72, had either a colon tumour or a partial intestinal blockage. The Italian news agency Ansa, quoting hospital sources, said it was a benign growth. Most tumours of the colon, the large

intestine, are benign. About 10 per cent of benign colon tumours become cancerous.

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INDEX

Births	14
Crossword	16
Letters	13
Obituaries	15
Parliament	24-28
Sport	24-28
Weather	16
LIFE & TIMES	
Arts	24
Modern Times: Women	6
Horoscopes	7
Concise Crossword	9
TV & radio	10
29	



1X

CARL FLESH COMPETITION: Spread over five evenings three soloists on each night compete at the final stage of the Carl Fleisch Competition. Competition offers talent soars, a chance to hear each of the six finalists playing a concerto chosen from those by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorak, Elgar, Sibelius, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, and Valotti. Andrew Litton conducts. The Philharmonia Hall, 14, Strand, London EC2 1071-4382 351-1, tonight, tomorrow, 6.30pm.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING: After his rope-tripping *Midsummer Night's Dream* for the London International Festival, Romanian director Andrei Serban applies his ingenuity to another of Shakespeare's plays, in collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company. The production takes on a surreal 19th-century flavour, following its Shrewsbury opening. Lyric Theatre, New Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, 0539 456043, 4pm, mat 7.30pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 2pm.

TERRELL'S ADVENTURE: The Almeida Opera festival presents Nigel Osborne's new opera, *Commissioned* by BBC Radio 3. Set in a 19th-century American town, it's a scene production with player piano and singer and is based on the life of G. David Pountney directs. Cast includes Clive Bayley, David Egerton, Michael Alman and Elizabeth Larkam. David Pountney conducts the Almeida Ensemble. Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London WC1, 071-585 10043, tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, Sat 8pm.

GEORGE BAZZETT - PRINTS 1964-90: What he's not staring at the canvas or gazing out window for his

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Thrilling performances in Tony Kushner's fascinating state-of-the-art drama continue at the National, starring National (Contessa), South Bank, SE1 071-926 2521. Today, 1.30pm and 7.15pm, 20th June.

LE BOURGEOIS GENTILHOMME: Richard Eyre's scene production, with Tim Pigott-Smith as the French hero in a comedy that's a mix of National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 071-926 2521. Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 8.30pm, Sun 2pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: And Daniel's 50th-anniversary production of the longing for revenge. Geraldine James, Michael Byrne and Paul Freeman. The Old Vic, 61 Martin's Lane, WC2 071-926 5121. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm, Sun 4pm, 12.30pm.

DE LAUREL: Amyng Porter 36 years on Osborne's hero rents and whinges but in a vacuum. And Peter Egan sees too good-music to be the Angry Old Man. The Old Vic, 071-926 2521. Tues-Fri, 7.30pm, mat 8.30pm, Sun 2pm.

THE CYBORG: Julie Bassil's grouping of new 'action' of the famous 'Japan drama' transported to a grunge in 1992. The Old Vic, 071-926 2521. Tues-Sun, 7.30pm, mat 8.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm Final.

GRAND HOTEL: Musical barley sugar. *Barber in the Tatami Room*. American's 25th-anniversary production. The Old Vic, Court Road, WC2 071-926 2521. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm, Sun 2pm, 7.30pm, mat 8.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm Final.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Dream's 50th-anniversary production of the most potentioal. *Midsummer's Dream* plays Soho. Open Air Theatre, Penn, 071-7071-4243-5. Tues-Sun, 2pm and 8pm.

PHOENIX: Here I Come! A 25th-anniversary cast of an era's bright and bouncy age.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

sculptures, this important exhibition explores the artist's use of engraving, cutting into the zinc block, or etching the metal plate to create some amazing prints. This survey of his work includes the artist's own images of shattered body parts to his prints featuring warms with pampas grass and latterly his serial prints, endlessly examining a single motif.

TAKE GALLERIES: Millbank, London SW1 071-834 1313. Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm, opens today 11.30am.

ANTONI TAPES: The Serpentine. Gallery has staged a powerful exhibition of Antoni Tapies' most important work, his most distinctive and powerful. The show is confined to the work of the artist and, when Tapies was created and remains just now commanding an artist he was.

Serpentine Galleries, London NW1 071-930 2041. Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 1-5pm, until Aug 8.

IMAGINE: From the team who created *Good Rockin'* comes *Imagine*, a 'musical celebration' of John Lennon's life and work, believed to be the musical he always wanted to make. The musical begins previews tonight and opens on July 23.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

HOUSE FULL, RETURNS ONLY

SEATS AT ALL PRICES

Excellent revival of Brian Friel's first success.

KING'S HEAD: 115 Upper Street, N1 071-726 2161. Tues-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm, Sun 3pm, Sat 4pm, 10.30pm.

STRAIGHT & NARROW: Harold Pinter's comedy about a dying mother's woes, now with her gay son.

ALICE'S ADVENTURE: Alice in Wonderland, 071-926 1115, tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 8.30pm, Sun 2pm.

SHAKESPEARE: The Merchant of Venice, 071-926 1115, tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 8.30pm, Sun 2pm.

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Crown concedes convictions were unsafe after evidence shows police had tampered with notebooks

Appeal court clears brothers of Swansea sex shop murder

BY STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO brothers sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a Swansea sex shop manager were cleared and freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday after new evidence showed that detectives deliberately distorted or suppressed information to bolster a weak case.

Paul Darvell, 31, and his brother Wayne, 30, were convicted six years ago for the murder of Sandra Phillips. Yesterday the court, headed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, quashed their convictions after Helen Grindrod, QC, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, said the Crown conceded that the convictions were not safe. The case would never have been brought had the Crown known what it now knew, she said.

In the course of the two-day appeal, Maurice Kay, QC, for Wayne Darvell, said that "towering above every issue on this case... is police evidence that was thoroughly dishonest, constructed on fraudulently created documents".

Police notes not have been made contemporaneously, a confession by Wayne Darvell had been refined and redrafted and a notebook supposedly used by one officer in June 1985 was not issued until two months later.

Priests 'treated at sex clinic'

BY CRAIG SETON

A NUMBER of priests are receiving counselling at a private clinic for sex offenders in Birmingham, according to a television programme which alleges that the Roman Catholic church covers up sex abuse of children by clergymen.

Ray Wyre, clinical director of the Gracewell Institute in the Moseley area of Birmingham, said yesterday that four Catholic priests had been admitted since Christmas. The £450-a-week treatment was being met by the Catholic church, he said.

Three of the priests are believed to be from Ireland and the fourth from England. They are being treated alongside convicted rapists, and child sex abusers referred by the courts or probation and social services agencies.

The clinic is due to feature in next Monday's *World in Action* programme, *The Sins of the Fathers*. It claims that evidence from England, Ireland, Canada and America proves that senior figures in the Catholic church have repeatedly covered up serious crimes of child sex abuse involving hundreds of priests.

Jim Canwell, a spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, said yesterday that he had no information about priests receiving treatment at the Gracewell clinic.

As Paul Darvell left the dock he turned to the bench and bowed. Afterwards he said: "It's great to be free. The first thing I want to do is get home to Swansea. I just want to go and have a pint of shandy."

Wayne Darvell said: "We have been waiting for this moment for a long, long time. I am very pleased it has come at last. We hold no grudges to anyone."

A further four have been suspended as a result of a second enquiry, begun after the case raised concern about police notebooks and diaries. In all, 87 officers from the South Wales and Dyfed Powys forces have been investigated and 1,500 pocket books seized. Fifty reports on investigations have been completed, which could lead to criminal or disciplinary charges.

Robert Lawrence, chief constable of South Wales, said that the investigation into Mrs Phillips' murder would be reopened and that a number of officers could face proceedings as a result of the appeal decision.

He said he had studied a report from Keith Portlock, assistant chief constable of Devon and Cornwall, who had recommended that the Darvels' case go back to the Court of Appeal. Questions raised over the use of police notebooks, the statements of evidence of one of the officers and other evidential matters have been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service and the

they were charged on the basis of five points: they were close to the scene; Wayne was sighted with what could have been a petrol container on the day of the murder; an earring similar to those worn by the dead woman was claimed to have been found in the police car Wayne had used after his arrest; Wayne confessed that he had watched his brother commit the murder; and Paul lied



Miscarriage of justice: Wayne Darvell, left, his brother Paul, right, and David Jessel, presenter of *Rough Justice*, outside court yesterday

about his movements on the day of the killing. After a 32-day trial the Darvels were convicted on majority verdicts.

Their cases were taken up by BBC television's *Rough Justice* programme and by the Justice group, which raised concerns that Wayne had a record of making false confessions and that details of his statement were already

known to the police. The Home Office ordered a fresh investigation by an outside force.

During the appeal, Mr Kay said the sightings of the brothers now proved doubtful and there was a suspicion that the earring might have been planted.

Photographs and negatives of a blood-stained palm print found at the murder

scene were destroyed before the trial. Finger-print experts were told not to continue work on the print, which clearly did not belong to the brothers or to Mrs Phillips.

The appeal judges were told that the Devon and Cornwall enquiry rendered valueless claims by South Wales police that the brothers had been seen in the area at the time of the murder.

The officers who claimed to have made the sightings were on another investigation nine miles away.

Wayne Darvell, whose alleged confession implicating his brother formed the basis of the Crown's case, was said to be suggestible and eager to ingratiate himself with the police. Electrostatic deposition analysis (Edsa) of documents recording his

admissions led counsel on both sides in the appeal to agree that the convictions could not be upheld.

Beryl Morgan, a forensic scientist from the Home Office laboratory at Chepstow, Gwent, told the appeal judges that Edsa tests of Wayne's confession and of allegedly contemporaneous police notes showed that they had been fabricated.

Heritage to study castle repair costs

BY PAUL WILKINSON

ENGLISH Heritage is to investigate how almost £700,000 of taxpayers' money was spent on restoring the great hall of a medieval castle. A commission headed by Jocelyn Stevens, the group's chairman, will visit Bolton Castle, North Yorkshire, today to assess claims of over-charging by contractors.

The claims have been made by Lord Bolton's son, Harry Orde-Powlett, owner of the 14th-century castle near Leyburn. English Heritage paid 90 per cent of the hall's £720,000 repairs, the first of three phases of renovation. Mr Orde-Powlett says that his examination of the paper work seems to show that "various items have been invoiced by tenders that were the most competitive of any other tender. I therefore fail to see how the man can feel he has been overcharged. Many of the figures he quotes are inaccurate or over-simplified."

Mr Taylor said that tendering for historic building work "tends not to be as competitive or as cut-throat as general contracting and it is slightly cushioned from the recession but... there are plenty of other people who are anxious to win that kind of work".

English Heritage said that Mr Stevens was on a general tour of the North, visiting properties where the organisation had made substantial grants. He expected to be given a letter from Mr Orde-Powlett detailing the claims but would be unlikely to discuss them on the spot.

Murder of teenager denied

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE man accused of murdering Lynne Rogers, who was found dead after going for an interview that she hoped would get her a job with an airline, said yesterday that he had spent the day that she disappeared with his girlfriend and his estranged wife.

Wayne Scott Singleton, 36, answering questions from his counsel, said he had "absolutely not" abducted Lynne, 17, killed her, or ever had the *curriculum vitae* she had sent out while looking for a job.

The prosecution alleges at Lewes Crown Court that Lynne, of Caxton, southeast London, died after meeting Singleton last September outside Charing Cross railway station, London. Her body was found five days later at Rotherfield, East Sussex.

Mr Singleton, of Crawley, West Sussex, denied having been at the station on the day she disappeared and said he had never been to Rotherfield. On the eve of Lynne's disappearance he had spent a "romantic day" with Kim Arnold, his girlfriend. He had then gone to see Pat, his wife, from whom he was separated, at her home in Highgate, north London. After talking to her he went to the Stapleford Flying Club in Essex, where as previously arranged, Miss Arnold phoned him, inviting him back for the night.

Racehorse owner leaves £41m to trust

BY JOHN YOUNG

A CHARITABLE trust founded seven years ago by the late H. J. "Jim" Joel, one of the great figures of English horse racing, will receive more than £41 million, the bulk of his fortune, under the terms of his will published yesterday.

Among the beneficiaries is Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who was given the choice of one of his horses in training. She chose *Keep Talking*, a seven-year-old gelding that won the National Hunt Chase at the Cheltenham festival on March 11, twelve days

before Mr Joel's death. The Cheltenham Trust was founded by Mr Joel in 1985.

The principal objectives of the trust are to support old people in need, to support charities connected with horse racing and breeding, the promotion of the Jewish faith and assistance to Jews in need, the education and benefit of miners and their families, especially in the United Kingdom and South Africa, and to support charities promoting health and the relief of the disabled. His estate was valued at £41,831,150 gross (£41,318,848 net).

Mr Joel, who never married, inherited the basis of his fortune from his father, one of three brothers who left the east end of London to become millionaires in the gold and diamond fields in South Africa. Mr Joel, who raced his first horse soon after the first world war, devoted most of his life to racing and breeding. He was one of only four owners to have won both the Derby and the Grand National.

Mr Martin Wills, heir to a tobacco fortune, who worked as a journalist until his death from a brain tumour last April, aged 39, left more than £20 million, most of it to charity.

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Women count the cost of parenthood

NEW mothers believe that their pre-school children probably do not suffer emotionally if they return to work, according to a Gallup survey.

Of 401 mothers of children aged from newborn to 18 surveyed by Gallup, only 38 per cent thought that their children would suffer, although 62 per cent of a sample of the general public disagreed.

A fifth of the mothers surveyed had returned to work an average of 4.8 months after giving birth, although the majority did so because of financial pressure.

The survey, commissioned by the baby food manufacturer Farley's, showed that mothers are under no romantic illusions about motherhood. Nearly three out of four feel that the most significant thing they have lost is time to devote to their own personal care and exercise.

If anything, men help even less with chores such as nappy changing than in the past, particularly when babies are very young, and 82 per cent of the mothers said that looking after a baby was harder than going

A survey shows that mothers regard looking after baby as the hardest work.

Alison Roberts
reports

out to work. Exhaustion figured prominently in interviewees' replies, with 71 per cent of them saying that they "always seem to be tired".

An initial outlay of about £870 is needed for baby care and annual costs after that amount to an average of £900, up 7 per cent from last year, according to the survey. Almost 50 per cent approved of a single woman choosing to have a child outside a stable relationship with a man, and 15 per cent of those aged between 16 and those aged between 16 and 25 were single mothers.

Four-fifths said that a woman did not need to work if her children to be fulfilled although only 48 per cent of the general public sample held the same view.

There were inconsistencies in attitudes towards

thirds of mothers, but a similar proportion of women said that they took no action. Twenty-eight per cent of women smoked throughout their pregnancy, suggesting that health education is still failing in this area.

Emma Brooks, a researcher who worked on the survey, said: "Only half thought that smoking was an effective way of disciplining children, although three-quarters said that they expect to resort to this form of punishment in the future."

The survey showed that British mothers are independent-minded and rely on each other rather than on husbands or doctors. Almost a third said that they could cope without their partner's support and over half said that at that time their partner took second place behind the baby.

Far from seeing motherhood as a lonely occupation, making new female friends was the second most significant gain to be had from becoming a mother. Most important was the sense of achievement which mothers, particularly first-time mothers, feel.

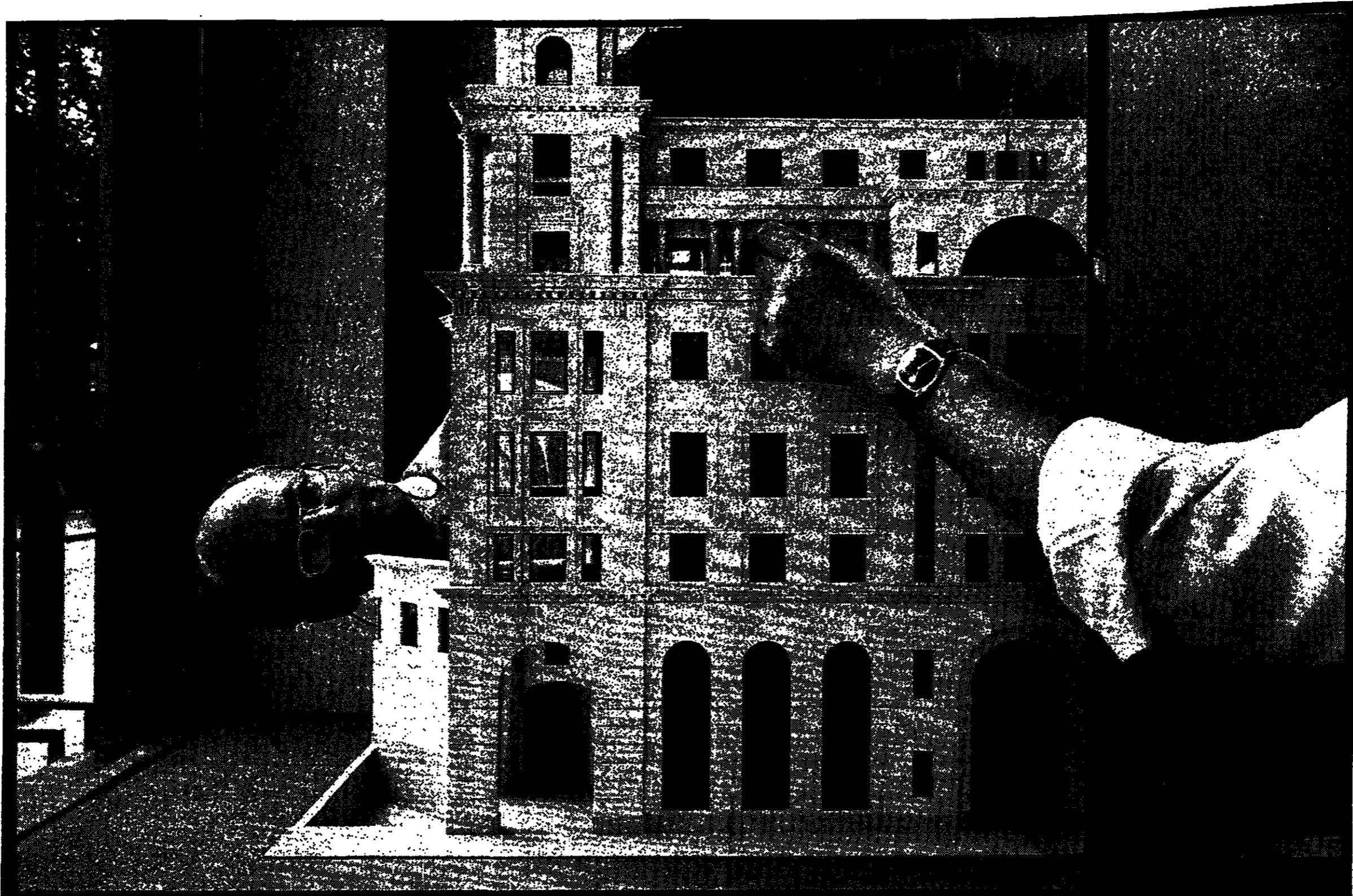
Improving diet and fitness before conception was deemed important by two

Source: Gallup. Sample 401 mothers with children aged from 6-18 months

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INVESTMENT GROUP more rewarding for you.

Shabby seaside resorts and overpriced hotels threaten to drive visitors away

UK accused of giving tourists a poor deal

BY A STAFF REPORTER

BRITAIN'S tourism industry is in the doldrums. Seaside resorts are shabby, delays at airports are unacceptable, too many information offices are in the wrong place and too few hotel staff speak English properly, according to a report published yesterday.

Central and local government, business and the private sector must get together to improve facilities or Britain is in danger of losing a huge chunk of the £18 billion that tourism earns every year, the report from the National Economic Development Council says.

Angus Crichton-Miller, chairman of the working party that prepared the report, said: "Tourism is set to become the world's biggest industry by the year 2000. The UK needs a co-ordinated and determined effort if we are to compete. If we do not make the necessary changes and improvements the flow of overseas visitors will decline, and as far as the domestic market is concerned people may increasingly choose holidays overseas."

An analysis of where tourists come from and what they want has helped the group to identify main areas for change. The number of tourists from northern Europe, except France, has declined while the number from the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan has increased.

Seaside resorts are heavily criticised. "Nowhere is the shabbiness more evident than in seaside resorts, many of which are faded glories equipped to meet the demands of a bygone age. There are, of course, exceptions such as Torquay, but these highlight the problems

elsewhere," the report says. It suggests introducing a system of sanctions against towns that describe themselves as a resort when it is misleading to do so. Towns that fail to meet accepted standards would not be featured by tourism boards, which would issue a list of "real resorts".

Most tourists, especially first-time visitors, put London high on their list of priorities but facilities in the capital city, particularly parking space for coaches, are inadequate. In a survey of overseas visitors, 45 per cent found meals, restaurants and cafés expensive and 48 per cent thought that London hotels were bad value.

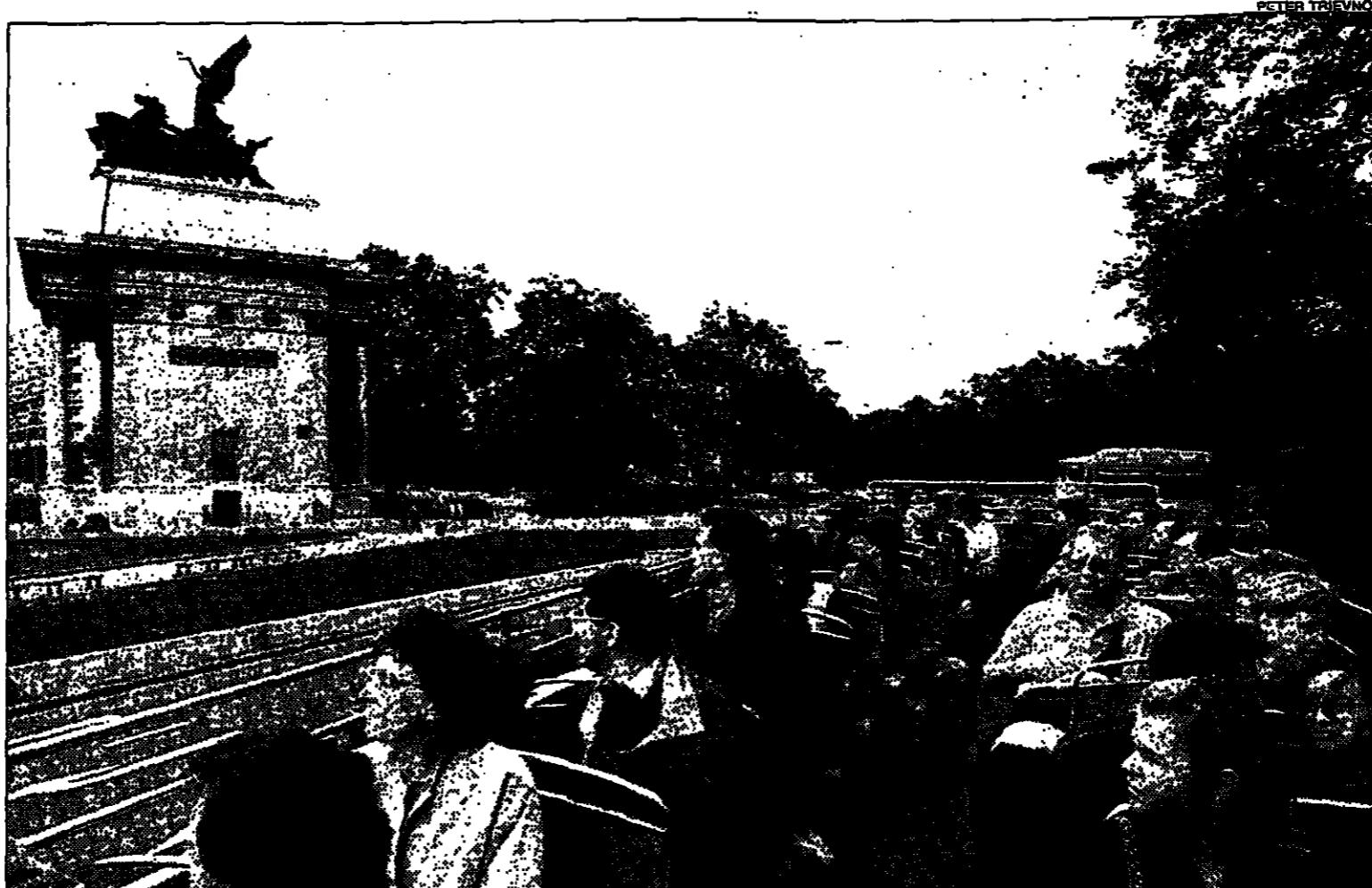
Hotels are criticised for lack of cleanliness. Bathrooms, bed covers, curtains and carpets are identified as needing attention and security does not live up to expectations. The report concludes that up to 10 per cent of hotels and self-catering accommodation are beyond refurbishment.

Reception staff speaking

inadequate English, rudeness, employee shortages and lack of training were also identified as problems. Low pay, long hours and minimal training are responsible for high staff turnover and lack of commitment. Managers need to know how to train their staff better and money has to be invested to make jobs more attractive and to promote tourism as a worthwhile career.

Britain has fallen behind her European counterparts

in exploiting the potential of its heritage. The report gives France as an example where the ministries of tourism and culture work together.



Standing room only: a bus full of tourists in London, but will they choose to spend their holiday in Britain again?

Airport delays and dirty trains criticised

TRAVEL and transport for tourists in Britain need to be modernised and improved, the report says, and immigration delays at Heathrow and Gatwick airports are a serious difficulty.

It says that London Underground carriages are dirty

and British Rail services

patchy. The rescheduling of roadworks to avoid the busy summer months should be the transport department's main objective. Hotels are often hard to find, especially by tourists travelling by road.

The report suggests a pilot

system to evaluate the benefits of better sign-posting. Coach facilities urgently need improvement. More parking space in London, including the building of a new coach park beneath Hyde Park, is a priority. Coaches should be allowed to use bus lanes in cities.

Tourist information centres

are identified as being fundamental to the future of the industry but many are inadequately staffed, sited in the wrong places and lack high-technology booking facilities.

The main aim of the centre is identified as giving information to the tourist to ensure an enjoyable stay and to provide local knowledge and encouragement to visit attractions.

The service is variable.

Some provide comprehensive information using fully trained and even multi-lingual staff, whilst others rely on part-time volunteers.

BIRMINGHAM'S International Convention Centre has won tourism's Oscar for its "outstanding contemporary design coupled with high quality materials and technical wizardry".

The award, the Come To Britain trophy, was made by the British Tourist Authority and was presented by the television newsreader Jill Dando in London. Special awards were presented to: the Fan Museum, Greenwich; Chatham Historic Dockyard; Llancaih Fawr Living History Museum, Neath; Min Glamorgan Maritime Quarter, Swansea; National Fishing Heritage Centre, Grimsby; and the White Cliffs Experience, Dover.

Certificates of distinction went to: J.M. Barrie's birthplace, Kirriemuir; the Butter Market, Enniskillen; Co. Fermanagh; Carnfunnock Country Park, Larne, Co. Antrim; King's Conference and Visitor Centre, Aberdeen; Oriel Ynys Mon, Anglesey; Shugborough Estate, Stafford; the Spirit of Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey; the Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre, Pencaerwyd, Llanelli; and the World of Beatrix Potter, Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria.

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Certificates of continuing development went to: the Clan Donald Centre, Skye, and the Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, Cardiff.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy dies after visit to dentist

A BOY aged ten has died after being given an anaesthetic by a dentist. His heart stopped while he was having teeth extracted.

Paul Beckett, of Isleham, Cambridgeshire, was treated in Mildenhall, Suffolk, on Monday. His orthodontist called an ambulance when he became worried about the time it was taking him to recover from the anaesthetic.

Paul was taken to hospital but died minutes after arriving. An investigation into his death has started.

Case dropped

Charges of threatening behaviour were dropped against four protesters who disrupted the unveiling of a statue to Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in London in May. Bow Street Magistrates' Court found that there was insufficient evidence against them.

Driver jailed

Gary Langouroux, 27, of Dartford, Kent, was jailed for nine months after being chased for 72 miles across London by police. He had sped through 14 sets of red lights before crashing into a police car, Isleworth Crown Court was told.

Bus hits bridge

A man ripped the top deck off a double-decker bus when he hit a low bridge while trying to drive it home. He had fallen asleep on the bus and had woken up in a depot in Croydon, south London.

Jockey banned

The jockey Richard Dunwoody, 28, of Wantage, Oxfordshire, was banned from driving for two weeks after admitting speeding on the way to Newton Abbot racecourse, Devon, in May.

Potato surprise

Two suspect packages blown up by a bomb disposal team in Tiverton, Devon, contained frozen chips. They had been left outside an army depot.

BBC to launch 24-hour news radio network

BY MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A 24-HOUR BBC radio news network, relying mainly on live, on-the-spot coverage, will begin broadcasting no later than January 1994, Sir Michael Checkland, the BBC director-general disclosed yesterday.

The plan, which was shelved a year ago amid internal opposition from Michael Green, the Radio 4 controller, who feared it might damage Radio 4, has been rejuvenated by John Birt, who takes over from Sir Michael next April, and Tony Hall, director of news and current affairs.

Sir Michael, who last year cancelled a £175 million building for news and current affairs proposed by Mr Birt, also outlined plans for a new £30 million extension to Television Centre, which will house the 24-hour channel by 1995 and all radio, news and current affairs staff.

Audience exposure to CNN, Sky News and the BBC's own experimentation with rolling news coverage and split Radio 4 frequencies during the Gulf war, release of the Beirut hostages and general election had increased demand for live coverage of unfolding events

delivered in an accessible and informative way. Sir Michael told radio executives at the Radio Academy's annual conference in Birmingham.

Sir Michael said that a rolling news service was an essential part of public service broadcasting, necessary if the BBC was to retain its place as the leading provider of news and current affairs. Recommended as part of the BBC's proposals for the renewal of its royal charter in 1996 the sixth network will cost £9 million a year compared with Radio 4's budget of £65 million. The extra funding will allow improved efficiency within the BBC.

The long-wave news service would concentrate on live, big events using the BBC's array of specialists, foreign correspondents and regional journalists, as well as the World Service. Mr Hall said.

Jenny Abramsky, editor of news and current affairs radio, said there was no question of the station having to rely on live "phone-ins" to fill time. "There is a vast variety of programmes that never make it on air. News radio has always been forced into a narrow agenda set by the half-hour programme and

that means the BBC has failed to do the type of in-depth features that newspapers can."

But it is unclear how much of Radio 4 FM's current affairs and documentaries will be dropped in favour of its long-wave sister. Nor is it clear who will run the news service, although it is likely that a controller will be appointed from the news and current affairs directorate.

Mr Checkland said that increasing the BBC's investment in FM transmitters would ensure that Radio 4's traditional audience would not lose its favourite programmes when the news service begins.

Classic FM has promised listeners "classical music dressed on Benetton" when it begins broadcasting in early September.

Michael Burkett, Classic's programme controller, said that many listeners who enjoyed classical music had been alienated by Radio 3's "white tie and penguin suit" approach. Classic would be a main line, full-service popular music radio station with short, brisk arias and movements in the mornings and longer pieces in the evenings.



Sporting Friend Sarah Randall nominated Clive

Sloanes turn serious

CLIVE Hopkins, an estate agent, is the winner of the Sloane Ranger of the year award.

Sloane Rangers have gone serious, found careers and moved south of the river, it was said yesterday. They have stopped saying "OK yah" and drink in south London pubs.

Harpers & Queen's maga-

zine, which has run the competition for ten years, chose Clive, 30, "because his lifestyle is typical of a Sloane Ranger". His favourite restaurant is the Café Du Marché, in Smithfield, and he spends most weekends in the country playing cricket, watching polo or shooting. He waterskis in Barbados.

Thames settles dispute with ITV

BY MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

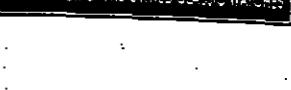
SUCCESSFUL Thames television programmes including *The Bill*, *Minder* and *Mr Bean* will appear on ITV next year after the settlement of a dispute which had threatened to disrupt network schedules in the South East this autumn.

ITV executives have backed down on demands that Thames relinquish for ten years its right to broadcast repeats of its programmes on rival channels such as UK Gold, the new satellite channel. Thames is launching with the BBC this autumn.

A £29 million deal for the first eight months of 1993, including a thrice-weekly showing of *The Bill*, was agreed in spite of the efforts of Carlton Television, which replaces Thames on January 1, to deny its predecessor satellite and repeat rights.

Thames, whose success as an independent producer depends on providing hit programmes from its library as well as repeats of new programmes, said Carlton's demand had been unreasonable and would have forced it to drop most network programmes this autumn.

Last week, Thames said that, if ITV did not back down on the question of re-



Dean sings the praises of a silent congregation

The General Synod's final debate yesterday was on raising the quality of church music. Ruth Gledhill listened quietly

Archbishops' Commission, which wrote the report, had hoped to produce a cassette to go with it, but had been stopped.

He said that different types of music appealed to different people. "For some people, cathedral evening will send them to heaven. For others, it leaves them stone cold."

The report was introduced by the Right Rev Michael Baughen, Bishop of Portsmouth, who chaired the commission. "We could not avoid noting the general shortage of numbers of organists and musicians, inadequate training, lack of

proper finance, a lesser place for all music except hymns in many churches and a widespread lowering of standards," he said.

But he noted that there were 18,000 church musicians in Britain who served the church without much recognition or reward. He described one organist, aged 103, still playing for her church, having started in 1920. One woman in his diocese had been at the console for 58 years and was in her eighties.

The church needs to recover confidence in the proclamation of faith, Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said yesterday. It had strayed from this emphasis and criticised the preaching of too many "moralistic or experiential sermons".

The archbishop, addressing a conference in Swindon, Derbyshire, called for an analysis of the discontents of the modern human condition and of the structure of

western society and culture. Without an awareness of the gulf between church and society, prescriptions for the church's mission, such as the Decade of Evangelism, would fail.

Dr Carey said: "If I have one abiding fear of the Decade of Evangelism it is that the church could so easily settle for easy answers which will satisfy only those already convinced that Christ is the truth."

The church had played down the significance of preaching for too long and the understanding of the Christian story had become a jumble. "Irrationality takes over."

He said that there was an unspoken modern assumption that religious faith and a scientific outlook were implacably opposed. "One deals in values, and the other in fact," he said. "But we have given way too readily. There was no need to give so much ground."

July 15 1992

UK accused of giving tourists a poor deal

BY A STAFF REPORTER

BRITAIN'S tourism industry is in the doldrums. Seaside resorts are shabby, delays at airports are unacceptable, too many information offices are in the wrong place and too few hotel staff speak English properly, according to a report published yesterday.

Central and local government, business and the private sector must get together to improve facilities or Britain is in danger of losing a huge chunk of the £18 billion that tourism earns every year, the report from the National Economic Development Council says.

Angus Crichton-Miller, chairman of the working party that prepared the report, said: "Tourism is set to become the world's biggest industry by the year 2000. The UK needs a co-ordinated and determined effort if we are to compete. If we do not make the necessary changes and improvements the flow of overseas visitors will decline, and as far as the domestic market is concerned people may increasingly choose holidays overseas."

An analysis of where tourists come from and what they want has helped the group to identify weaknesses for change. The number of tourists from Northern Europe, except France, has declined while the number from the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan has increased.

Seaside resorts are heavily criticised. "Nowhere is the shabbiness more evident than in seaside resorts, many of which are faded glories equipped to meet the demands of a bygone age. There are, of course, exceptions such as Turkey, but these highlight the problems

elsewhere," the report says. It suggests introducing a system of sanctions against towns that describe themselves as a resort when it is misleading to do so. Towns that fail to meet accepted standards would not be featured by tourism boards, which would issue a list of "real resorts".

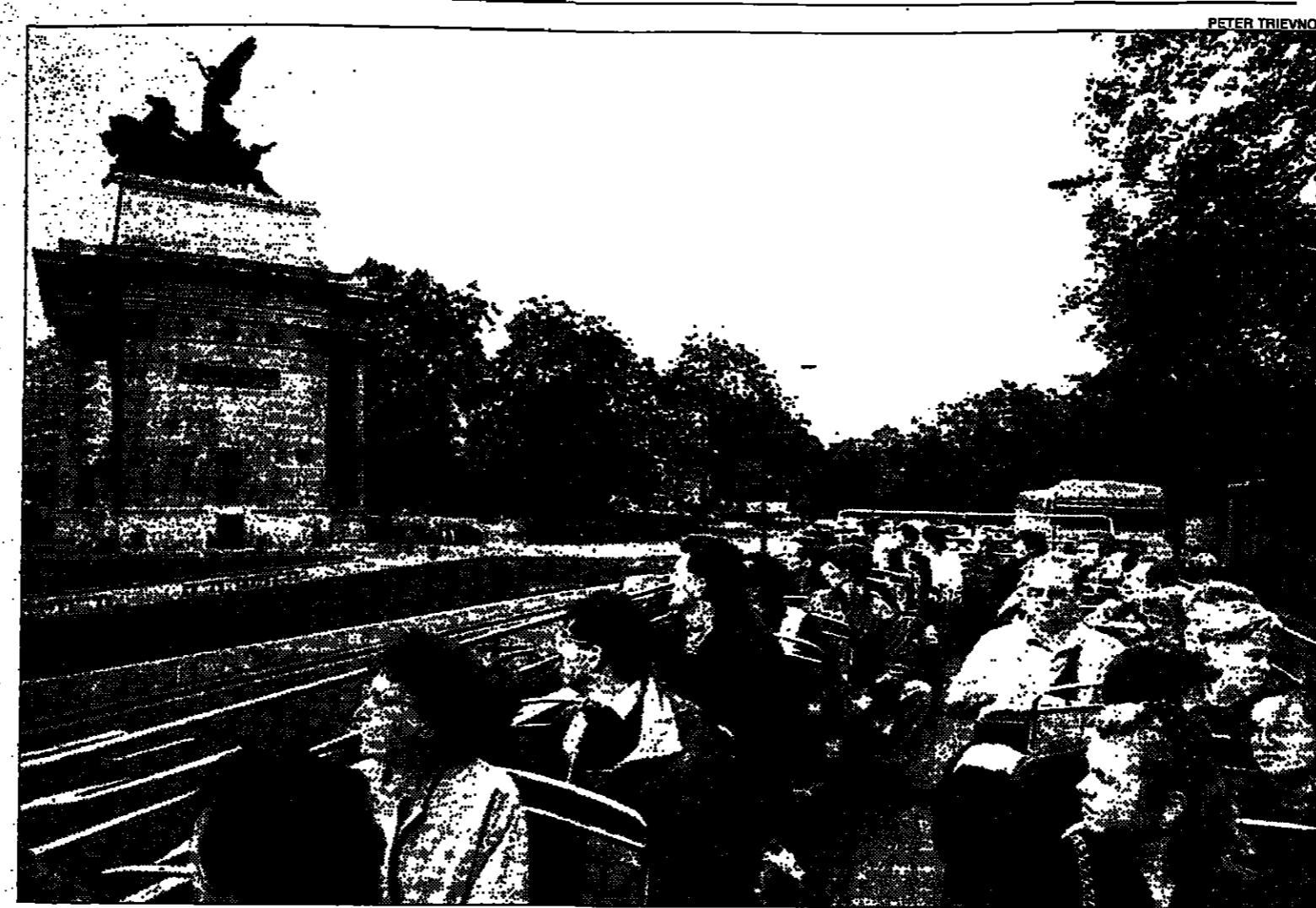
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Hotels are criticised for lack of cleanliness. Bathrooms, bed covers, curtains and carpets are identified as needing attention and security does not live up to expectations. The report concludes that up to 10 per cent of hotels and self-catering accommodation are beyond refurbishment.

Reception staff speaking inadequate English, rudeness, employee shortages and lack of training were also identified as problems.

Low pay, long hours and minimal training are responsible for high staff turnover and lack of commitment. Managers need to know how to train their staff better and money has to be invested to make jobs more attractive and to promote tourism as a worthwhile career.

Britain has fallen behind her European counterparts in exploiting the potential of its heritage. The report gives France as an example where the ministries of tourism and culture work together.



Standing room only: a bus full of tourists in London, but will they choose to spend their holiday in Britain again?

Airport delays and dirty trains criticised

TRAVEL and transport for tourists in Britain need to be modernised and improved, the report says, and immigration delays at Heathrow and Gatwick airports are a serious difficulty.

Heathrow is highlighted as a serious difficulty. "The Heathrow Express rail link to Paddington is of paramount national importance. Hotels are often hard to find, especially by tourists travelling by road.

The report suggests a pilot system to evaluate the bene-

fits of better sign-posting. Coach facilities urgently need improvement. More parking space in London, including the building of a new coach park beneath Hyde Park, is a priority. Coaches should be allowed to use bus lanes in cities.

Many are badly located, difficult to find and not in areas of strong demand," the report says.

All centres must have extensive on-line booking facilities.

"There is a trend towards more and shorter holidays, utilising the wider range of products with increasing numbers of facilities and attractions. This puts the consumer's time re-

searching and selecting the options at a premium. Being able to find out about travel, accommodation, catering and attractions in a single session and making selections in a single booking is convenient and saves time."

New technology for the centres could be partly funded by the proposed national lottery. New centres should be sited at gateways to the country such as all airports, seaports and on major motorways, the report says.

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BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

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Yesterday, Thames announced that it had been commissioned to produce 104 episodes of *The Bill* which will be transmitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays instead of its present two-night slot. Thames will also provide 13 episodes of *Minder*, 12 of *Wish You Were Here*, 16 of *This Is Your Life* and two *Mr Bean* specials.

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A 24-HOUR BBC radio news network, relying mainly on live, on-the-spot coverage, will begin broadcasting no later than January 1994, Sir Michael Checkland, the BBC director-general, disclosed yesterday.

The plan, which was shelved a year ago amid internal opposition from Michael Green, the Radio 4 controller, who feared it might damage Radio 4, has been rejuvenated by John Birt, who takes over from Sir Michael next April, and Tony Hall, director of news and current affairs.

Sir Michael, who last year cancelled a £175 million building for news and current affairs proposed by Mr Birt, also outlined plans for a new £80 million extension to Television Centre, which will house the 24-hour channel by 1995 and all radio, news and current affairs staff.

Sir Michael, who last year

delivered in an accessible and informative way, Sir Michael told radio executives at the Radio Academy's annual conference in Birmingham.

Sir Michael said that a rolling news service was an essential part of public service broadcasting, necessary if the BBC was to retain its place as the leading provider of news and current affairs. Recommended as part of the BBC's proposals for the renewal of its royal charter in 1996 the sixth network will cost £9 million a year compared with Radio 4's budget of £65 million. The extra funding will come improved efficiency within the BBC.

The long-wave news service would concentrate on live, big events using the BBC's array of specialists, foreign correspondents and regional journalists, as well as the World Service, Mr Hall said.

Jenny Abramson, editor of news and current affairs radio, said there was no question of the station having to rely on live "phone-in" to fill time. "There is a vast variety of programmes that never make it on air. News radio has always been forced into a narrow agenda set by the half-hour programme and longer pieces in the evenings.

Audience exposure to CNN, Sky News and the BBC's own experimentation with rolling news coverage and split Radio 4 frequencies during the Gulf war, release of the Beirut hostages and general election had increased demand for live coverage of unfolding events.

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The overall picture painted by the report is that music in church is drab. The church either takes music for granted or places little value on it. Services become routine, with little effort put into preparation.

The Bishop of Chester, the Right Rev Michael Baughen, a successful modern hymn writer, said that the report was bland. "Of course, what it lacks is music. To produce a report on music without music is almost fatal." Members of the



Sporting Friend Sarah Randall nominated Clive

Sloanes turn serious

CLIVE Hopkins, an estate agent, is the winner of the Sloane Ranger of the year award.

Sloane Rangers have gone serious, found careers and moved south of the river. It was said yesterday. They have stopped saying "OK yah" and drink in south London pubs. Harpers & Queen's maga-

zine, which has run the competition for ten years, chose Clive, 30, "because his lifestyle is typical of a Sloane Ranger". His favourite restaurant is the Cafe Du Marche, in Smithfield, and he spends most weekends in the country playing cricket, watching polo or shooting. He waterskis in Barbados.

proper finance, a lesser place for all music, except hymns in many churches and a widespread lowering of standards" he said.

But he noted that there were 18,000 church musicians in Britain who served the church without much recognition or reward. He described one organist, aged 103, still playing for his church, having started in 1920. One woman in his diocese had been at the console for 58 years and was in her eighties.

The church needs to recover confidence in the proclamation of faith, Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said yesterday. It had strayed from this emphasis and criticised the preaching of too many moralistic or experiential sermons".

The archbishop, addressing a conference in Swanwick, Derbyshire, called for an analysis of the discontents of the modern human condition and of the structure of

western society and culture. Without an awareness of the gulf between church and society, prescriptions for the church's mission, such as the Decade of Evangelism, will fail.

Dr Carey said: "If I have one abiding fear of the Decade of Evangelism it is that the church could so easily settle for easy answers which will satisfy only those already convinced that Christ is the truth."

The church had played down the significance of preaching for too long and the understanding of the Christian story had become a jumble. "Irrationality takes over."

He said that there was an unspoken modern assumption that religious faith and a scientific outlook were inextricably opposed. "One deals in values, and the other in fact," he said. "But we have given way too readily. There was no need to give so much ground."

Dean sings the praises of a silent congregation

The General Synod's final debate yesterday was on raising the quality of church music. Ruth Gledhill listened quietly

Archbishops' Commission, which wrote the report, had hoped to produce a cassette to go with it, but had been stopped.

He said that different types of music appealed to different people. "For some people, cathedral evening song will send them to heaven. For others, it leaves them stone cold."

The report was introduced by the Right Rev Timothy Bavin, Bishop of Portsmouth, who chaired the commission. "We could not avoid noting the general shortage of numbers of organists and musicians, inadequate training, lack of

proper finance, a lesser place for all music, except hymns in many churches and a widespread lowering of standards" he said.

But he noted that there were 18,000 church musicians in Britain who served the church without much recognition or reward. He described one organist, aged 103, still playing for his church, having started in 1920. One woman in his diocese had been at the console for 58 years and was in her eighties.

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Words outweigh the deeds as Panic takes charge in Serbia

FROM DESSA TREVIAN AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE
AND MICHAEL BINYON IN LONDON

MILAN Panic, 62, a California businessman of Serbian descent, was yesterday elected prime minister of the new Yugoslavia, which comprises just Serbia and Montenegro. Mr Panic, who talks in glowing terms about peace and business, has been brought back to Belgrade in order to impress the outside world and he said that, unless sanctions were lifted soon, he would consider his mission a failure.

Mr Panic has been close to Slobodan Milosevic, the president of Serbia, for some years; however, there are rumours in Belgrade that his premiership could signal the beginning of the end for Mr Milosevic.

There was little visible evidence of that, though, as Mr Milosevic was yesterday ap-

plauded loud and long by parliamentary deputies.

Mr Panic's installation came as Lord Carrington, the European Community peace mediator, prepared to begin talks in London today with the leaders of the three warring factions in Bosnia. Lord Carrington will meet each delegation before the talk between Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, Mate Boban, the Croat leader, and Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, who will represent Bosnia's Muslims.

In Belgrade, Mr Panic made a trenchant speech packed with statements of good intent and said that his prime task was to have international sanctions on Yugoslavia lifted. He condemned

"ethnic cleansing" by which whole communities are being swept from their homes in Bosnia, and pledged that he would do all he could to retrieve the heavy weaponry bequeathed by the Yugoslav army to Bosnian Serbs. There was no indication, however, of how this could be done and many deputies later denounced the idea, saying that Mr Panic proposed to abandon Serbs outside Serbia.

Mr Panic also talked of a future economic union of all the states of former Yugoslavia. However, many of Mr Panic's cabinet ministers will be a disappointment to those who were hoping that his talk of change would immediately be matched by deeds. The new foreign minister is Vladislav Jovanovic, hitherto a Milosevic loyalist and Serbian foreign minister. Other ministers have strong nationalist tendencies and their appointments clearly reflect political realities rather than Mr Panic's hopeful rhetoric.

The Bosnian leaders who will gather in London last met in Lisbon in May, but talks broke up when the Muslims walked out. Lord Carrington flew to Sarajevo ten days ago, but achieved little.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, leaves for Ljubljana, the Slovene capital, this evening at the start of a four-day tour of former Yugoslavia. He will hold talks with political leaders, and emphasise that he and the European Community have put the search for peace top of the political agenda during the British presidency of the EC.

Mr Hurd is anxious to allay any doubts over the Carrington mission, especially in France, where there have been calls for a broader international conference on Yugoslavia. British officials said there was no alternative to Lord Carrington: he knew the parties, was going ahead resolutely, and was a statesman with international respect.

Coping with refugees from the fighting will be the main point of talks in London tomorrow between Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and John Major.

Refugee threat, page 1

Brussels lists ways to cut UK rebate

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Commission officials were meeting last night to complete a document that will pour fuel on the flames of debate on the European Community at Westminster, describing ways of cutting the "rebate" that Britain receives on its payments to the EC budget.

The report will be considered when the Commission meets today and probably be sent to EC foreign ministers in time for their meeting on Monday. Last night commissioners were said to be divided over how far the report should go in recommending any particular option set out in the document. One Commission official said the calculations assumed that the rebate would be untouched for at least two years but that its value would fall progressively after that.

In a subtle way the numbers in the draft report suggest that we would have to reduce the amount of rebate in two or three years' time because of the projections of the money we would be spending by then," he said. In 1992-93, Britain's payments to the EC of £4.9 billion are due to be cut by £1.1 billion.

But the commissioners will probably try to avoid raising the temperature of debate in the Conservative Party over Europe and the Maastricht treaty by sticking to a description of the rebate system and a list of choices for change.

New dispute erupts over fleet control

FROM ROBERT SEELEY IN KIEV

RUSSIA and Ukraine's simmering dispute over control of the Black Sea fleet erupted again yesterday after troops loyal to Russia seized a garrison building in Sevastopol, the fleet's headquarters.

At press conferences in Sevastopol, both the Russian and Ukrainian-appointed fleet commanders accused each other of breaking the accord signed by President Yeltsin and President Kravchuk at Dagonis that was meant to settle the argument over the fleet of 370 vessels.

Claiming that Ukraine was undermining the status quo, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, the Russian-backed fleet commander, described the situation in Sevastopol as tense and said that Ukrainian officers were trying to subvert control of his fleet by persuading sailors to take the Ukrainian oath of allegiance.

The fact that two million foreigners were now paying social security meant that

without them, whole sections of the economy would have to close or would be able to function only with great difficulty. "The importance of foreign employees for the entire economic process in Germany, as well as for the assets and operation of our social security system, cannot be over-estimated," Frau Schmalz-Jacobsen added.

Unemployment tended to be around 4 per cent higher among foreign workers. At the same time migrants were needed in industries where it was often difficult to find Germans to do the work.

Almost a quarter of foundry workers are foreigners and

more than a fifth of hotel and catering employees. Other industries relying heavily on foreigners are textiles (20 per cent), mining (15 per cent) and iron and steel (14 per cent). Almost 17 per cent of local government workers are migrants, mainly employed in rubbish collection and street cleaning.

Of the six million, only a quarter come from other EC countries and will therefore be granted the right to vote in local and European elections in terms of the Maastricht treaty. That means that, even more than is now the case, Germany will become a two-class society for foreigners, thanks to the EC," the report said. "We cannot have any interest in that happening."

New laws allowing naturalisation are now being introduced, but the commissioner's report said that procedures were still too cumbersome and costly, with only 20,000 foreigners obtaining German citizenship in a year.

'Grease' star discloses she has breast cancer

The singer-actress Olivia Newton-John, 43, has disclosed that she has breast cancer. She said in a statement released in Los Angeles by Gavin De Becker, her spokesman, that she was making the diagnosis public to avoid scandalous headlines in the tabloids. Mr De Becker did not mention surgery, but said the star's doctors expected a full recovery. In her statement the star of *Grease* said she drew strength from the millions of women who had faced the same challenge. The cancer had been detected early "because I've had regular examinations, so I encourage other women to do the same". A tour scheduled to start on August 6 has been postponed.

The former playboy president of the Seychelles, James Mancham, won the £13,000 jackpot in a lottery to raise election funds for President Albert René, who ousted him in a coup. Mr Mancham, who is contesting the election, said

he would give the prize to a national reconciliation fund.

Sir Richard Hadlee, the New Zealand cricketer, has had a pea named after him by a Wellington seed company.

Michel Rocard, the former French prime minister, is in Peking for a week-long visit.

Herbert Cornelius Kenny, 77, who sang with the original Ink Spots in the 1940s and 1950s, has died of cancer.

Finland has an all-woman cabinet this week headed by Elisabeth Rehn, the defence minister, because all the male members are on holiday.

Hamid Reza Pahlavi, half-brother of the late Shah of Iran, has reportedly died of a heart attack while serving a life sentence on drug charges.



Stepping out: a group of models wearing Paco Rabanne file down the catwalk in a fashion show that was organised specially by the French pavilion at Expo '92 yesterday to honour Bastille day

North Africans cram Spain's roads

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE southern Spanish port of Algeciras is under siege this week from 35,000 North African migrant workers in thousands of vehicles waiting for ferries to cross the Strait of Gibraltar for their annual holidays.

Queues of an estimated 6,000 heavily laden cars and vans stretch for miles after a mass exodus from France following the lorry drivers' blockade and coinciding with the Bastille day celebrations. The situation has been further aggravated by a go-slow on one of the ferries. Tourists are advised not to try using the main coastal road between Málaga, Algeciras and Cádiz.

In and around Algeciras,

nearby 200 Red Cross volunteers will offer assistance during the next seven weeks to the 650,000 Magrebis, 85 per cent Moroccans, as they wait up to 36 hours for ferries to Ceuta and Tangier. Over 300 of the travellers need medical attention each day in the car parks of Algeciras alone. Daytime temperatures soar over 100F and sanitary conditions are appalling. Elsewhere in the queue, relief workers are giving our bread, water and baby food. Many roadside cafes have closed their lavatories to the Arabs.

The Spanish interior ministry's annual operation is called "Cross the Strait" and its job is to cope with the three-quarters of a million Arabs travelling through Spain from their jobs in the rest of Europe. As well as a break, the journey is a chance to take home luxury goods not available in Morocco, but the last hurdle involves doing battle with Moroccan customs officials and other opportunists.

To cope with this year's influx, the largest so far, the drivers of the expected 180,000 vehicles in the caravan are handed leaflets as they enter Spain. They give advice in Arabic on how to reach their ferries safely and at strategic points on the 1,000-mile route the Spanish transport ministry has built ten rest areas with signs in Arabic.

The prime objective is to reduce accidents caused by tired drivers, many at the wheel non-stop for 18 hours in overladen vehicles.

Last year the Spanish police noted a new trend. The Arab immigrants, mainly living in France, Holland, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland, were using better quality cars and there were fewer in each of them. The immigrants are issued with Spanish transit visas valid for 90 days, but in order to stop their fellow countrymen following in their tracks without having legal jobs, visas were introduced last year for all Moroccans, Tunisians and Algerians wishing to enter Spain.

A troop of the mounted Republican Guard with gleaming chrome sabres and helmets escorted the president. Next came cadets from the St Cyr military academy, Alpine troops in snow-white uniforms and paratroopers in fatigues and white gloves. Many units performed with distinction during the Gulf war. For the first time, the impressive flypast included a Boeing AWACS, one of the new early-warning aircraft bought recently from the United States.

In his first chat with the people since his visit to Sarajevo, M. Mitterrand was emphatic also that France would not try, as many have suspected it would, to "go it alone" in Yugoslavia. "France will not go and make war all by itself in the Balkans," he said.

Photograph, page 1
France split again, page 12



Newton-John: trying to avoid scandalous headlines

Izvestia fights to retain independence against hardliners

FROM BRUCE CLARK
IN MOSCOW

IZVESTIA, which epitomises much of what is best in Russian journalism, faced a tough fight for its economic and political independence last night after a bid by conservatives to take over the prestigious newspaper.

The battle over the future of *Izvestia*, which has stood firm against the tide of Russian jingoism and carried warnings of a hardline coup, was the latest front in a broadening left-right struggle for control over the media and, ultimately, the country. A declaration of war on the present staff of the 75-year-old paper was made this week by the praesidium of the Russian parliament, a tough right-wing committee which has clashed repeatedly with the reformers

minister of President Yeltsin.

In a resolution scheduled for full parliamentary debate on Friday, the praesidium branded as illegal the decision by *Izvestia* journalists to take control of the newspaper and its lucrative publishing arm in the aftermath of the August coup. It asserted that the Russian legislature had inherited the legal status of the defunct Soviet parliament, including the right to a press organ by the name of *Izvestia*. Under the old Soviet system, *Izvestia* was associated with the legislature but there were often arguments about whether they should simply annex the ethnic zone of South Ossetia, where efforts to deploy a multi-ethnic peacekeeping force were getting under way yesterday. The newspaper also provided extensive space to the assertion by Andrei Kozyrev, the foreign minister, that authoritarian forces might be preparing to stage another coup.

Izvestia has incensed hardliners by reporting both sides of the ethnic fighting in Moldavia and Georgia, while many Moscow papers have confined themselves to emotional accounts of the "genocide" of pro-Russian

communities in the outlying republics. In reports from Tbilisi, for instance, *Izvestia* has criticised sharply proposals by Ruslan Khatsibulatov, Moscow's parliamentary chairman, that Russia should simply annex the ethnic zone of South Ossetia, where efforts to deploy a multi-ethnic peacekeeping force were getting under way yesterday. The newspaper also provided extensive space to the assertion by Andrei Kozyrev, the foreign minister, that authoritarian forces might be preparing to stage another coup.

Izvestia has always looked and felt much more like a Western organ of record and heavyweight comment than any of its rivals on the Moscow press scene. It is one of the few Russian papers to conduct long-running investigations in the tradition of the

Anglo-Saxon press. Andrei Illesh, one of its senior editors, has spent much of the past decade investigating the precise background to the shooting down of the Korean jumbo jet in September 1983. In contrast with *Prawda*, the former mouthpiece of the Soviet Communist party which is now struggling to survive without state subsidies, *Izvestia* has adapted well to market conditions and built up lucrative advertising revenue. Its reporters are well paid by Russian standards and the paper has launched a successful joint publication with *Hearst* Newspapers.

A change of control over *Izvestia* would be a blow to the morale and influence of the pro-Western reformist camp in the Russian leadership, which has already lost ground in the cabinet changes of the past two months. Otto Latsis, one of the newspaper's senior staff, said he was assured by Mr Yeltsin yesterday that he would try to "persuade" Mr Khatsibulatov to stop his attacks on the paper.

However, the soft language of this promise was in itself a sign of how much ground the Russian president is being obliged to concede to his conservative critics. Only two months ago, Mr Yeltsin seemed confident that he could neutralise the hardline camp in parliament by calling a referendum to change the constitution.

Now that idea appears to have been dropped in an implicit admission that the reformists are not strong enough to be confident of victory in a head-on clash with their opponents.



Mitterrand: reviewing troops in Paris yesterday

Contrite Democrats tell voters they have learnt from mistakes

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN NEW YORK

THE Democrats were set to adopt a presidential campaign manifesto late yesterday designed to reinforce the message of the convention's opening on Monday — that they had learnt from mistakes and were once more a mainstream party that middle America could trust.

Some black Democrats complained that their interests were being sacrificed as Bill Clinton courted the white middle-class vote. Supporters of Jerry Brown protested vociferously that California's dissident former governor was being barred from speaking. But few could remember a Democratic convention so relatively harmonious and united and with the nominee in such apparent command.

Speaker after speaker in Madison Square Garden denounced President Bush as the champion of a failed status quo and sought to capitalise on the nation's anger with a mantra of "change". Organisers banned mention of Ross Perot, save for a single brief but savage attack. For



the first time this year the party seemed buoyed by a real sense that its candidate could win in November. "As far as this White House is concerned — honey, you can turn out the lights, the party's over," declared Texas governor Ann Richards, the convention chairman.

The only immediate worry

was last night's scheduled address by Jesse Jackson, the civil rights leader, whose endorsement of the moderate Clinton-Gore ticket on Saturday was at best lukewarm. Ron Brown, the party chairman, yesterday squelched speculation that Doug Wilder, Virginia's disgruntled

black Democratic governor, was preparing to jump ship and become Mr Perot's running mate.

Entitled *A New Covenant With the American People*, the manifesto advocated toughness on crime, strong defence, an entrepreneurial economy, welfare as a "second chance" and not a way of life, better training and education, and the revival of personal responsibility. "We welcome the close scrutiny of the American people, including Americans who may have thought the Democratic Party had lost its way," it said.

Contraction for past preoccupations with minority and left-wing interests was a constant refrain. "This Democratic Party is ready to go back to school to listen to the American people, to get our lessons right this time," declared Ms Richards.

Barbara Jordan, a former Texas congresswoman and another keynote speaker, declared the convention's purpose was "to convince the American people to trust us, the Democrats, to govern again". Both Walter Mondale and Michael Dukakis, Democratic losers in 1984 and 1988, said they backed the new approach.

The 4,300 delegates saved their biggest cheers for champions of abortion rights — six of November's woman Democratic Senate candidates were individually showcased — and for the savaging of Mr Perot by Zel Miller, the Georgia governor. He accused Mr Perot of having milked federal government largesse over the years for all it was worth. "Ross says he'll clean out the barn, but he's been knee deep in it for years," declared Mr Miller.

This year's race was between "an aristocrat, an autocrat and a Democrat".

Ron Brown, the party chairman, had the convention chanting: "Read our lips, no second term." Mr Miller called Mr Bush a "timid man who hears only the voice of caution and the status quo".

Several hundred supporters of Mr Brown, chanting "Le Jerry speak", threatened to disrupt the opening night, but it appeared yesterday that Mr Clinton and the former California governor, who has refused to endorse him, were approaching a compromise.

Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey, who made the first keynote address to nominate Bill Clinton for president, would have much preferred a British party conference. He would then have been listened to not only by his peers, sitting along the

platform in traditional fashion, but also by his audience.

Rows of conference-goers would have noted respectfully his case for how democratic capitalism requires the deferral of gratification, how "giving up the desire of more of everything now is the key to having more of something better in the future".

But Senator Bradley got no support from his colleagues.

That is not the way here. Politicians are not bold enough to bore each other as we British do. He also won the attention of only a fraction of delegates. They absorbed his rhetorical shafts as effectively as straw bales receiving arrows; and they fired back long volleys of sound of their own.

Not even the Democrats' prized clutch of would-be women senators escaped the hum of indifference. Each one was placed in a separate part of the cavernous sports hall; and before the audience realised where the words were coming from, each five-minute female life-story, each scripted tale of male domination, had finished.

However, Governor Ann Richards of Texas successfully followed up her 1988 jibe about George Bush being born "with a silver foot in his mouth". "As far as this White House is concerned," she shouted, "honey, you can turn out the lights because the party's over."

Interpreters" on the other side of a great glass wall.

The television commentators who sit in "skyboxes" surveying the insects below are the true keepers of Madison Square Garden. They make their own sense of what, when seen from below, is close to chaos.

The first favour that they do on behalf of their viewers is to cut out the noise. The level of activity on the convention floor is extraordinary. The seven tubas of the Democrat brass band are some of the quieter instruments in use. The level of listening is so low that a speaker, unless he or she is of immense fame, must envy the bible-belters on Oxford Street. Early speakers do not even pretend their colleagues are paying attention.

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FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN NEW YORK

THE New York Democratic convention is like a wasp's nest in a zoo. Thousands of buzzing individuals pursue their separate tasks, each one seemingly oblivious to the surroundings and each imprisoned by "informed in-

terpreters" on the other side of a great glass wall.

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FROM RED HARRISON
IN SYDNEY
AND JAMIE DETTMER
IN WASHINGTON

AN AUSTRALIAN airliner carrying 305 passengers was forced to change course suddenly over the Pacific yesterday after an American warship threatened to shoot it down.

The American embassy in Canberra yesterday confirmed that the warship was using the Qantas 747 as a mock target in a military exercise and has apologised for the incident. Flight QF12 was less than an hour out of Los Angeles on an authorised route to Sydney when the captain received a curt radio message demanding his aircraft identification. The message was heard on a frequency normally reserved for aircraft distress signals.

When the captain responded, apparently in some confusion, he was ordered to leave the area immediately or face "hostile action". The captain radioed twice for help from flight controllers in Los Angeles. The incredulous response to his first call told him, in effect, not to be silly. But Federal Aviation Administration officials dispatched his second, more desperate, call to US Navy officials at the Pentagon, in Washington, then to the warship involved.

America formally apologised to the Australian government for the incident, which is being investigated by the Pentagon and the Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration. Qantas spokesman in Sydney, trying to play down the incident, said this three-way hook-up clarified the situation, but the FAA non-the-less ordered the airliner to alter course.

Ted Radford of Qantas said the Americans did not intend the Australian airliner to hear the challenge. The US warship's crew believed

that they were transmitting only on a military frequency reserved for a training exercise. The signals had been transmitted "inadvertently" on a commercial aircraft frequency.

Qantas pilots reacted with fury. "What the hell is the US Navy doing using commercial aircraft as mock targets?" The Americans have enough

military hardware in the skies without putting civilian passengers at risk from some gun-ho, half-trained radio operator," Captain Leslie Hayward, in charge of Qantas's 747 fleet, said.

"Our pilot did the right thing. Even if you think it's Mickey Mouse telling you to move on, you do exactly what the mouse says."

Commander Jim Kudla, a spokesman for the US Navy's Pacific Fleet, said the USS Cowpens had "mistakenly used an international distress frequency instead of a designated exercise frequency to broadcast an exercise warning."

In such exercises, warships

will often use passing aircraft in simulations. All the ships are meant to use a special frequency and will often send messages to innocent planes they have picked up on radar without actually contacting them directly. A spokeswoman for the FAA praised the actions of the Qantas crew.

wait." In less bland language, Ken Boys, a Qantas spokesman, said: "I assume at some point someone will get a slap on the wrist."

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Commander Jim Kudla, a spokesman for the

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 15 1992

OVERSEAS NEWS 11

Rabin's offer widens split in ranks of Palestinians

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE vision presented by Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, of a new era of coexistence with the Arabs received a sober, and at times hostile, response from Palestinian leaders yesterday. Speaking a day after Israel's new leader set out his government's objective to grant autonomy to the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, senior Palestinians said his offer fell far short of their minimum demands.

The lukewarm response to what was widely considered an historical speech offering unprecedented opportunities was partly a reflection of



GARY GRAHAM

Elixir of life: Australian rescue workers pouring water yesterday on beached whales at Seal Rocks, on the coast of New South Wales. They said that they intended to work through the night in an effort to save the lives of the 47 stranded whales. National Parks and Wildlife Service officials

said they hoped to move the whales into a shallow pool before pushing them out to sea today. At least two whales had died after being battered against rocks. Andrew Marshall, one of the officials, said: "We hope to save 60 or 70 per cent at least, if we are lucky we may save the lot." The

mammals, he added, had been covered with hessian and wet towels during the day to keep them cool. The whales, believed to be either pilot or false killer whales, will be checked by veterinary surgeons and "walked around" to rid them of cramps before they are released. (Reuters)

Baker peace shuttle to begin again

FROM JAMES DETHMER
IN WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, will leave Washington for Israel on Saturday. After meeting Yitzhak Rabin, the new prime minister, he is expected to visit Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia in a round of shuttle diplomacy meant to get Arab leaders to shift the Middle East peace process into a higher gear.

Mr Baker, the chief architect of the peace talks, which got under way in Madrid last October, is delighted with Mr Rabin's election victory and his quick invitation to Arab leaders for talks. State Department officials express confidence that, with Mr Rabin in office, the talks may now gain a momentum of their own without constant American goading.

Leading article, page 13

Arabs mix caution with revived hope

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THERE was cautious optimism that new life was about to be breathed into the Middle East talks that began last October in Madrid and are due to resume in Rome, their new permanent base despite Arab reservations, especially from Syria, Israel's most suspicious negotiating partner.

Jordan and Egypt were both swift to respond positively to the moves from Washington and Jerusalem, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, sensing a greater role for itself, has called an emergency session of Palestinian factions in Tunis on Tuesday to respond to Yitzhak Rabin's peace overtures. That will be followed later in the week by a top-level

meeting of all Arab parties to the peace talks in Damascus, in an effort to overcome wide differences and to agree on the elusive goal of common Arab negotiating stand.

Lebanon, which takes its cue from neighbouring Syria and its occupying army, said yesterday that Mr Rabin's offer of yesterday may now come under strong pressure to soften their demands in response to Israel's apparently more reasoned approach, one Palestinian source said.

There is concern that the Palestinian and Jordanian sides will now dominate international attention, one pro-Western Arab diplomat said, "with Israel using its new dovish image to cleverly bypass the issues of its continued occupation of the [Syrian]

Golan Heights and part of southern Lebanon."

Many Arab officials were quick to acknowledge that the revitalised peace process was approaching a potentially dangerous stage for them. "The Palestinians may now come under strong pressure to soften their demands in response to Israel's apparently more reasoned approach," one Palestinian source said.

Jordan, which is pivotal to any long-term solution to the Palestinian question, welcomed the imminent return of James Baker, the American Secretary of State and chief architect of the Madrid process, whose dislike of the defeated Likud administra-

tion in Israel was never disguised.

Amr Moussa, Egypt's foreign minister, said that Mr Rabin's inaugural speech in the Knesset contained "good intentions". But like other Arab politicians, he emphasised the need for the new government to commit itself publicly to the central land-for-peace principle.

Ahmed Abderrahman, the PLO spokesman, criticised Mr Rabin for failing in his speech to mention United Nations land-for-peace resolutions on the basis of which America and Russia have sponsored the talks that have made little progress in the five ill-tempered rounds held so far.

HONG KONG NOTEBOOK

Japan's new plastic super-shoppers fly in for a little fun

BY JOANNA PITMAN

THIS was not a woman to let colours scare her. Kazuko Oda wore a vermilion blouse, mulberry trousers, zebra-striped shoes and a pimento scarf knotted at the throat and dotted with the designer's initials done in a nice friend-ly lime green.

Some Hong Kong shops have geared up to deal almost exclusively with Japanese customers. When an inquisitive reporter walked into one of them, dressed in the equivalent of a wake-up call for the bleary-eyed investment bankers who sat gloomily stirring their coffees and mulling over the health of the world stockmarkets.

Mrs Oda and her party, the wives of electronics company executives left behind in Japan, are on an intensive shopping tour of Hong Kong five days and four nights in a hotel and four nights in a hotel. The one spends an average of £500 when she comes into the shop. When compared with the cost of a couple of time evenings out for two in Osaka, however, a £500 bill looks thrifty.

In bed early every night, they are up before some of the bankers and before most of the journalists to make the best of the shopping day. Dressed in one of her new cocktail dresses, Yoko Kajima toyed with her cere-

tal yesterday morning as she wondered aloud whether she had any wrist space left for some more watches or bangles and beads. Her new green suede shoes, which looked precious enough to be kept in a bank vault, matched her new handbag in which was the small piece of plastic that made it all possible.

If designer bags and watches fill Japanese shopping lists, it is Japan's designer cars, stereo sets, computers and cordless telephones that fill the shopping lists of the hundreds of Hong Kong "snake heads", or smugglers, who organise regular nocturnal raids on the territory, funnelling their booty up to mainland China in high-speed power boats.

The Hong Kong police estimates that HK\$8 billion (£57 million) in goods were smuggled into China from Hong Kong last year. These are smooth and daring operations. A Toyota Lexus, the luxury car of choice over the border, is stolen in Hong Kong, driven into the New Territories and sent away in a power boat from the shady shallows of Tolo Harbour.



CAMRY
"It goes and handles very well and comes with a full specification that must make the rival manufacturers green with envy."
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What children should know

Pressure groups are manipulating the young, says Bryan Appleyard

How much should children be told? Yesterday the Princess of Wales spoke about Aids at a Barnardo's conference called Telling the Children. A survey by the charity had found that 70 per cent of all 11- to 13-year-olds first heard about the condition from television. Teachers and parents would have to accept that soaps were transmitting the anxiety long before the formalities of sex education.

Meanwhile, the Advertising Standards Authority has condemned a Vegetarian Society leaflet distributed to schoolchildren aged 12 and over. It is, says the ASA, "capable of causing distress and exploiting those at such an impressionable age". The society is unrepentant and has refused to withdraw the leaflet, which describes in detail the sufferings of animals being slaughtered.

The passions and anxieties of children are easily roused. Their responses tend to be both apocalyptic and personal. Plant some conviction or anxiety in their minds and they will happily believe that their parents, in particular, are callous dolphin-killers or psychotic despilers of Mother Earth. Hearing of Aids, they will construct playground myths, probably convincing each other that some classmate is infected. There are no more anguished worrywarts nor more passionate greens or socialists than children between the ages of ten and fifteen.

At one level there is nothing wrong with this. We probably have to go through crude extremity to arrive at adult sanity. "The road of excess," wrote William Blake, "leads to the palace of wisdom." There must, however, be something wrong when adult institutions decide to exploit this vulnerability. The language of the Vegetarian Society leaflets is direct and ruthlessly anthropomorphic: Sows are said to be mated on "rape racks", animals are said to give off the stench of fear, and chickens are thrown into scalding tanks "fully conscious".

This, says the society, are the facts. Well, there are facts and facts. Certainly animals should be treated as humanely as possible. But it is not a fact that chickens are conscious as we are, and the use of the word "rape" displays an entirely unfactual extension of human values into the animal realm. And the society goes much further than this. Its spokesman Juliet Gellatley places explicit value on the tendency of children to think passionately and globally. She speaks of adults becoming too weighed down by personal cares such as mortgages and by the increasing cynicism of the passing years. She says that there are 3.6 million British vegetarians, of whom 500,000 are aged between 11 and 18. Indeed, she claims that 94% of teenagers reject red meat.

The point of such an argument is that the child's wisdom is being elevated above that of the adult. The innocent intensity of teen-

'Hearing of Aids, they will construct playground myths, convincing each other some classmate is infected'

agers' concern is seen as being more right than the supposedly jaded, mortgage-bound resignation of their parents. This is an absurdly dangerous attitude. Children have also been drawn to Nazism, Maoism and the Red Brigade/Baader-Meinhof belief that capitalists should be shot. They are drawn to such attitudes because of their ruthless simplicity, their "innocence". But innocence cannot in itself be a virtue. Sentimentality, however, and the exploitation of the impatience of youth, are vice that do not have a distinguished pedigree.

Vegetarianism, of course, might be seen as a fairly harmless cause, and this case of classroom terrorism may be only a trivial matter of a few zealots going too far. But the global media village ensures that there are many such causes, and that pressure groups have unprecedented powers to disseminate their views — often less explicitly and

therefore less honestly than the vegetarians, as when children's television programmes automatically adopt a green orthodoxy. But what about Aids? Here is a matter of human life and death, an anxiety and a reality that, as Barnardo's has found, is in the cultural air the children breathe as surely as Kylie Minogue or *EastEnders*. The logical extension of the Vegetarian Society's argument is that the "facts" made available in the classroom should include the harrowing reality of an Aids ward or the specifics of what constitutes high-risk sex. And clearly the urgency of this issue goes far beyond the rights or wrongs of factory farming.

The difficulty is that Aids calls the global bluff and challenges the very idea of the "private" life. Its spread is almost certainly a product of a sudden and unprecedented growth in promiscuity, particularly in the United States, which provided the virus with an escape route from the African homeland. It signals the existence of a viral communications system that parallels the more familiar electronic network. It tells us that nobody, least of all a child, is an island: we have all been "globalised".

This is the link. The vegetarians want us to see that the meat on our plates implicates us in a worldwide system of environmental damage and industrialised cruelty. Aids forces us to see that our behaviour joins us in the viral ecology of the planet. Children's imaginations, whether we like it or not, are engaged with apocalyptic guilt and with a terrifying plague.

But a life of such anxiety and such guilt is unlivable outside an asylum. The manic vegetarians should be kept out of the schools. And, more to the point, Telling the Children is an inadequate slogan for the awful complexities of Aids. Teaching the Children might be a better, if more difficult, aspiration.

Thanks to new books and films full of terrible accounts, the country now knows much about the

Neil Kinnock was a finer parliamentary performer than critics allow, argues Matthew Parris

A leader misjudged

Yesterday was Neil Kinnock's parliamentary swansong as Labour leader. Soon his nine years at the helm will be recounted as a cautionary tale, a fireside story for would-be leaders. Like most cautionary tales it will be inaccurate. We kid ourselves too easily with fireside stories in politics. Myths about yesterday are in the making even as we speak today.

Some important myths are sprouting around Mr Kinnock. At the very time when a new prime minister with no dispatch-box flair takes the stage and shows that it does not matter, the story grows of an Opposition leader who failed because he was unable to score from the front bench.

Three myths are beginning to shape our assessment of Neil Kinnock's parliamentary performance. The first is that it was particularly bad; the second is that Margaret Thatcher's was particularly good; and the third is that this settled matters.

Recent days have been an awkward time for researchers preparing Farewell Kinnock pieces. They have been ordered by editors to

find examples of those famous occasions when Mrs Thatcher "squealed" Mr Kinnock at prime minister's questions. They have been fast-forwarding through the tapes. The examples are not there. Some have even approached me in desperation. Most of the exchanges, they say, seem to be pretty even. The lady in blue does not have the edge over the gent in the red tie, but seldom in any memorable way. Can I think of a famous squeal that they may have overlooked?

I cannot, and I must have watched the great majority of those exchanges. As to style, Mr Kinnock never quite hit his stride, or never for long: but in substance his questions were usually tough, usually to the point, and often testing. He stuck to his guns, and though he sometimes stumbled he seldom fell flat.

Nor did his difficulties lie in any

great skill that Mrs Thatcher exhibited. All she had was incisive self-assurance. Often flat-footed, she simply trampled over him, rarely answering his question and never with anything interesting. Cornered, she would simply shout. Heckled, she would shout louder.

As Opposition leader you can find a million ways of protesting, "this will never do for an answer", but having said so, what more can you say? It isn't easy to be clever if your opponent does not want to play, and Mrs Thatcher was not playing. In all those years she really only said one thing over the dispatch box to Mr Kinnock, a very simple message: "I am prime minister and you don't know anything about it." The chink in his armour was that he didn't. This was precisely the way in which James Callaghan humiliated Mrs Thatcher during her fairly wretched years as leader

of the Opposition, when she didn't either.

I believe that this is a problem for any Opposition leader untested in high office, not a particular weakness in Mr Kinnock who got as far as anyone could with bravado. We knew it was only bravado, and we knew that we knew, and for him there was no escape.

The lack of intellectual self-confidence we liked to diagnose in him was in fact impeded to him, disabling him and becoming a self-justifying prophecy. The "philosophical confusion" and "policy vacuum" that we believed we saw in his performance reflected what we knew about his party. We sometimes imagined, I think, that it could be discerned from his own behaviour, but video archivists of the future may not be so sure. I believe they will find themselves watching a competent performer, and wonder what all

the fuss was about. Watching Mrs Thatcher they will see a crude and dull orator, and they will wonder, again, what all the fuss was about.

It is fashionable to call the Commons chamber the national "soundboard" for politicians and their capabilities — as though each one auditioned cold, as an unknown. But we know them already, by many means other than their debating style and we know the difficulties (or opportunities) that lie behind their outward style. Far more than we realise, I think, we unconsciously interpret that performance as reflecting those truths we think we see in the fellow's eyes: the doubts we know lie behind them; we think we see the lady sweating because we know she ought to be.

In that sense, our politicians appear to us as we are secretly determined that they should. Britain's view of Mr Kinnock's parliamentary style these past nine years tells us less about Neil Kinnock, and more about Britain's relationship with its Labour party, than we may think.

Pétain splits France again

Vichy crimes still haunt the French, writes Charles Bremner



War hero and traitor: the marshal on trial in 1945, when wartime truths began to be suppressed

Rafle du Vél d'Hiv". It knows that Jews were banned from many professions and places and were required to wear yellow stars; that René Bousquet, the Vichy police chief who is still at liberty, surprised even the Germans in his enthusiasm for rounding up children. It knows that after days of hunger and filth the prisoners of the Vél d'Hiv were transported to French camps where rifle butts were used to separate the women from their children, then on to the death camps of Germany and Poland. It knows that in those summer months of 1942, while Chevalier and Piaf toured Germany and *Le tout Paris* danced the nights away with German officers, 33,000 Jews were deported by the French, never to return. It has also been told, in Gilbert Joseph's *Une Si Douce Occupation*, that even

those icons Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre were never involved in the Resistance as they claimed. France has been reminded, too, that in that summer a 26-year-old railway official named François Mitterrand was contributing articles to a virulent Pétainist journal founded by his friend Gabriel Jeantet, a man who blamed the nation's troubles on "international financiers and Talmudist prophets".

That rarely mentioned chapter in the Mitterrand biography, eclipsed by his departure into the Resistance the following year, helps explain why France has been so reluctant to confront the spectre of collaboration. In the early confusion of defeat, many good people went with the flow, tacitly collaborating and sharing the Pétainist belief that they were

saving France from further degradation.

The question now is whether, 50 years on and with 80 per cent of the population born since the war, France will seek to expiate its Vichy guilt through trial and presidential declaration. The court's stupefying exoneration of Vichy in the Touvier case helped to focus the collective mind and probably served to speed the long-drawn-out prosecutions of M. Bousquet and Maurice Papon, another senior Vichy official. Both men, who went on to successful post-war careers in business and government, are now under new indictment for crimes against humanity. Nobody expects trials of the octogenarians for at least another year, if ever.

However, many prominent people, including, it is said, M. Mitterrand, see little good coming from putting the Vichy regime on trial for its part in genocide. Asked yesterday about the national responsibility, M. Mitterrand made a distinction between Pétain's *Etat Français* and the republic, which he said had a glorious record on human rights since the revolution. The republic should not, he said, have to answer for the crimes of the Vichy state, as "inhumane and barbarous" as they were. Even some Jewish leaders are unhappy about pursuing the old collaborators because it would only exacerbate old hatreds that have been stirring all too noticeably.

Some ugly and familiar emotions are certainly evident these days. They can be heard in the blatantly racist speech of right-wing politicians and ordinary citizens. The patriotic, proto-fascist language of Pétainism is making itself heard in a batch of stirring extreme-right magazines and a daily Paris newspaper, *Le Présent*. Not coincidentally, this press found much to its liking in the behaviour of the lorry drivers earlier this month. The Association for the Defence of the Memory of Marshal Pétain boasts of a rush of new young members and hopes for more when the first feature film on the marshal comes out later this year. Yann Clerc, a senior executive at *Le Figaro*, this week welcomed news that 41 per cent of the French considered Pétain, the first world-war general and second world-war leader, to be a great man, and told *L'Express*: "I feel a new mobilisation. You can't imagine the people who are coming out as Pétainists." They could not reveal themselves, he said, for fear of reprisal.

Given this background of apologia and right-wing virio, it is hard to conclude that France would be better served by finally drawing the curtain, as some suggest. One idea, put by children in a television programme this week, is to declare a national day of shame. That is unlikely to be followed. However, if M. Mitterrand fails to heed the call to speak out tomorrow France will miss an important chance of confronting its demons and, as many prominent figures have argued, of ensuring there is no return to the past.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I stand at the crossroads of those critical paths where concern meets inference, and gnaw the indecisive knuckle. Call it the Cleveland conundrum.

Were the little boy at the upper window being assaulted, I should call the police, were he in physical distress, it should call an ambulance, were his premises burning, I should call the fire brigade; and were, moreover, any of these threats to his welfare on the point of getting out of hand, I like to think I should have no compunction in kicking down his door or shaking up his drapery, generally doing what I could to alleviate his misfortune. But none of these things is happening to him. All that is happening to him is that he is playing the violin.

Not that a stranger would know this. Were he to pass beneath the window, a stranger would think to himself: how odd that people in Clevillewood should not only keep a screechowl but also allow it to dismember live weasels in the middle of the afternoon, funny old world, it takes all sorts, and amble on; but I am not a stranger, I have passed regularly beneath that window for two years now, and I know that what is being torn apart up there is Bach and Gossec, and anyone else who, not content just to whistle tripperies in G major that came into his head during coffee breaks from serious composition, made the mistake of jettisoning them down. For without all those minuets and gavottes,

nothing more from the woodwork than a single atonal shriek. Worse, he is unhappy about this. Though I have often guessed him to be unhappy, it was only on Tuesday that I knew he was, because I saw him for the first time. He was standing at the window, holding the violin by the neck as if it were a tennis racket, i.e. suggesting he was looking for something against which to splinter it. And when I smiled at him, I received in return not a smile but a bleak and pitiful shrug, after which he receded once more into the room and began rendering something even less recognisable than it was the last time.

What should I do? *De minimis non curat Childine*, nor will the council take into care every 10-year-old with two left thumbs, and I doubt that the Environmental Health Act can be deployed to suppress the noise of what, at an inspired guess, might have started life as Elgar's *Salut d'Amour* but has subsequently undergone variations so enigmatic that the neighbourhood's cats remain permanently on heat, but something must be done, if the kid is to be granted a normal life.

A letter to his parents? An anonymous phone call? A ring on their door to announce that my firm is always on the lookout for second-hand violins, best prices paid? I do not know. I know only that each time I pass the window, the sound I hear, however otherwise unidentifiable, is beyond any question a cry for help.

Lights, jobs, action!

DAVID PUTNAM, who rode to the rescue of the British film industry with *Charlors of Fire*, has stepped in to save Neil Kinnock's staff from the dole queue. With Kinnock taking his last question time yesterday, his staff have been facing the bleak prospect of unemployment. At least two are set to join the Putnam payroll, with the prospect of lifelines to other aides if they continue to fail to land the high-profile jobs they want.

Putnam, one of Labour's best known millionaires, has agreed to take on John Newbiggin, Kinnock's chief of staff, and Sue Nye, his long-serving diary secretary. That the offers represent a political favour seems not in doubt, for their precise job descriptions remain unclear. "We are still talking about the job and the form it will take. It is undefined at the moment. The environment will be one aspect of it and David Putnam cares passionately about the environment," says Newbiggin, the Tamil-speaking son of a former bishop of Madras. He will start work for Putnam in September and colleagues are already describing him as "Putnam's green guru". Nye was a powerful figure in the Opposition leader's office, access to the leader being channelled through her. The role she will play with Putnam remains equally undefined.

John Smith is expected to retain only one of Kinnock's 16-strong entourage, the popular Hilary Coffman, who will be given an elevated role as press officer. One of the old team, Jan Royall, will stay with Kinnock as his private secretary.

Meanwhile the two best known names remain unemployed. Julie Hall, Kinnock's press secretary,



now on an extended American tour observing the Democratic convention, and Charles Clarke, his chief of staff, have failed to find jobs. Putnam could yet come to the rescue of both.

For those truly unfit people who find athletic activity too much even from an armchair, Redwirth Hall hotel in Durham offers the Lazy Olympics Break to coincide with the Barcelona games later this month. There is only one qualification: guests should have done no exercise since the last Olympics in 1988. Prizes will be awarded for the puniest and idlest, and those caught indulging in anything strenuous face instant dismissal. "We aim to help unfit people feel less guilty," says Brian Philpott, the general manager.

Mine saviour

BOGEYMAN to many, Arthur Scargill has turned good samaritan. The miners' leader has in theatrical fashion stepped in to save an amateur dramatics production from disaster. Derek Haughton, driving in medieval costume to play the leading man in the Mystery Plays at Worsbrough, near Barnsley, broke down en route and with 20 minutes to go before curtain-up he called at a house to use the tele-

phone. He was ushered in and the next minute met Scargill.

"I was dumbstruck," says Haughton. "He agreed to take me to the village and I arrived in the nick of time and went straight on the stage." King Arthur declined an invitation to stay and watch the production, but his contribution was suitably honoured. Haughton added a miner's lamp to his costume for the performance.

Peter at St Paul's

PUSSY CAT, pussy cat where have you been? I've been up to London to visit the Queen, goes the nursery rhyme. There were no felines in sight yesterday at St Paul's when the Queen appeared at the annual service for the Order of St Michael and St George. But among the large cast of senior diplomats was Charlotte Hazebury.

We're the only ones wearing tails.



With Peter, the large and extremely nervous brown rabbit. Charlotte, the young daughter of Canon John Hazebury, who was participating in the service, smuggled Peter through the police cordon and waited patiently outside the cathedral's main doors for the sovereign in order to introduce the rabbit to her majesty. "He

wanted to see the Queen, so I brought him up to take a look," said Charlotte. "You should have brought him inside." A blue-robed knight grand cross told her. "He could have passed as a GCMG."

Ballet-boxed

BARRACK-ROOM lawyers and saloon-bar constitutionalists were out in force at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall this week, when members were asked to give their views on that burning question of the day: the admission of women.

The club committee had suggested a postal ballot of the membership, 4,500 fine minds dotted across the globe. If more than 50 per cent of those eligible voted in favour, then the O&C would admit the fairer sex. The pro-female camp felt that the chances of success were at best slim. They proposed an amendment to a more amiable target — two-thirds of those actually voting.

The case was argued as gently as one would expect among such cultured folk and the amendment appeared to have been carried by 108 in favour to 85 against. Yet suddenly it was announced that proxy votes had not been included: with them, the motion failed by 150 votes. Cries of foul play. And the result of all this procedural wrangling? Predictably, as at the Garrick, women will continue to find the doors firmly barred.

Sir Richard Hadlee, the cricketing knight, has a new-found fame. A New Zealand company has named a new after him. The Hadlee apparently is a variety of blue prawn, particularly suitable for use in curries and



NOT PRIVATE ENOUGH

Rail privatisation was always the big one. It defied Margaret Thatcher. The public is nervous of it. The mere idea of it terrifies the rail industry. Yesterday's white paper is a desperate attempt to calm things down. Yet every paragraph shudders with fright.

There is only one central decision to be taken on British Rail's future: whether its existing hierarchy is still to control Britain's rail assets or whether these assets are to be divided into smaller units reflecting the fragmented character of the market for rail travel. This decision is ideological: between corporate bigness and the presumed economies of scale, or smallness and the presumed benefits to local enterprise and competition.

John MacGregor has fudged this decision, or at least postponed it for a successor to take. BR is to be reborn as Railtrack, a nationwide track authority. There is then to be a separate franchising authority awarding contracts to operators, including BR's own staff, to run trains over this track. There is to be a separate regulator to monitor the prices charged by Railtrack. There will then be private companies bidding for services, in competition with BR's operating divisions which will eventually be privatised.

The objection to this is plain. Railtrack will entrench the most inefficient parts of BR, its professional engineering functions and their attendant unions. The great work of BR in the 1980s, of cutting infrastructure costs by integrating them with train service costs, will be undone. Overheads will be under even less pressure than now. Franchise holders will find half to three quarters of their total costs out of their control, fixed by a nationalised industry in cahoots with a civil service regulator, both passing on higher charges under the guise of safety. Far from increasing market disciplines on the railways, the government may actually be reducing them. To this extent, the white paper is one of the most remarkable victories for Whitehall's bureaucratic centralism over market forces in 13 years of Tory government.

By comparison, the proposals for franchising train running are merely muddled. Those owning (or leasing) and running trains will have over half their outgoings fixed by Railtrack-plus-regulator — as much as 90 per cent if they are leasing. All that is

really being franchised is the marketing of individual services. Since BR's 30-40 operating divisions have long and sound experience of this, the likely outcome is a few prestige pathways granted to Richard Branson and others for political window-dressing, while BR's reborn operators keep the rest.

Subsidy will be redirected through individual services rather than as a block grant, which is sensible, though there is ominous talk of subsidising Railtrack as well. A few stations may be sold off, thus regrettably stopping future privatised rail companies from exploiting them. Otherwise, all will continue as before. Tory backbenchers need not worry. Nor need the unions. There will be thousands more jobs for civil servants, regulators and administrators. Rail overheads will soar.

There are two silver linings to these clouds. First is Mr MacGregor's hint that Railtrack might be broken up at some later date. Since it holds the key industrial assets of land, tracks, signals, workshops and termini, its privatisation and geographical fragmentation is the only privatisation that has any meaning. Only thus will the railway see asset exploitation, comparative cost-control and exciting innovation. Work should begin on this breakup at once.

The second good news is that existing BR operating divisions might be given the franchise for complete groups of services. They could thus receive subsidy and be expected to cross-promote between long and short-haul services. Thus might the local identity rightly seen by the prime minister as the key to rail revival be reborn and some coherent planning made possible. For this to appeal to investors, however, the operating companies must be able to bid for their local parts of Railtrack when that is broken up. Only thus can they control their costs and exploit their principal assets, land and franchises.

Mr MacGregor has ploughed a wobbly furrow with some groggy political horses in front of him. But there is a hint of straightness over the hill. The white paper offers at least the basis for more radical action following its enactment. A private railway in Britain is far from a reality, but it is a little closer.

PROPHET OF PEACE

Yitzhak Rabin lost no time in taking office yesterday as Israeli prime minister in outlining his vision for peace in the Middle East. He was ready, he said, to travel to Damascus, Amman and Beirut and to receive Arab leaders on the podium of the Knesset. Israelis had to overcome the sense of isolation that held them in thrall for almost half a century.

His remarks, a conscious reference to President Sadat's pioneering visit to Jerusalem, were all the more remarkable for the complete break in tone and substance from the cramped and grudging approach to peace of his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir, a man who by his own admission would have duplicitously dragged out the talks for ten years in the hope of swamping the occupied territories with settlers and thus retaining control for ever. Mr Rabin condemned the "extreme" views of the former prime minister in whose government he served. To Mr Shamir's fury he did not mention "Eretz Israel", but instead warned an older generation of Israelis to throw off their blinkers and paranoias along with their nationalist ideology.

He has underlined his determination for a fresh start by forming the most dovish government in Israel's recent history. But his brave words should not mask the difficulties that lie ahead, nor overlook the caution, verging on outright scepticism, they have evoked in the Arab world.

Mr Rabin's new government does not have quite the free hand many enthusiastic Labour supporters believed on the night of electoral victory. He commands only 62 of the Knesset's 120 seats. He has already modified the blanket promise of an immediate halt to settlements, and is now making a distinction between those established for security and political reasons. For all his apparent flexibility, Mr Rabin has a history of antagonism towards Palestinian aspirations, and as defence minister he gave the order to

"break the bones" of Palestinian demonstrators during the early days of the *intifada*.

All this explains the cautious Arab response. But the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, now face a deeper dilemma. They will come under strong pressure from the outside world, especially America, to respond swiftly and favourably. They still do not like the terms they are being offered; and to them Mr Rabin sounds dovish only by comparison with what came before. They would like an explicit commitment to the key United Nations resolutions on withdrawal; they do not accept continued Israeli settlements in Golan and the Jordan valley; and they do not accept annexation of all Jerusalem.

Mr Rabin has also exposed the deepening split between moderates and radicals. Palestinian leaders like Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Husseini may have welcomed the "new seriousness" of his remarks, but Islamic fundamentalists and their leaders in Hamas have no time for any compromise. Radical nations such as Syria are worried that their views may now count for less, and that America will resume its old close alliance with Israel. Indeed as soon as Washington guarantees the \$10 billion in loans to Israel — as it soon will — their international leverage is gone.

Internal Arab squabbles may now come to the fore, inhibiting the kind of positive response Mr Rabin is looking for. His best way forward is to demonstrate, by a reconvening of the Middle East peace talks, that he is ready for real bargaining, real concessions. He has chosen Shimon Peres a foreign minister least distrusted by the Arabs, well placed to press ahead, unilaterally if necessary, in recreating a dialogue. The Arabs showed patience during the sham peace talks conducted by Mr Shamir and in the election interlude; now it is the Israelis' turn to show statesmanship and restraint.

LIFE IN COUNTY HALL

White-Elephant-on-Thames needs to be given an occupation and a future. County Hall has now stood half-occupied for six years, and wholly empty since the Inner London Education Authority vanished in 1990. There is a pleasure in ruins. But there is nothing more melancholy than a great building whose occupation has gone.

County Hall is by no means a ruin, yet. It is one of the grandest and most familiar buildings in London, standing on one of the finest sites on the South Bank. It was built from the rates of Londoners as an architectural declaration of metropolitan pride. For it to decay in idleness is an embarrassment to the government and a blot on the face of London. Any use is better than none.

County Hall is not suited to many uses. It was built as the headquarters of London government. But even should the government one day accept that the metropolis will be needs some authority of its own, none will be of a size or triumphalism to occupy all of County Hall, nor need it occupy the magnificent rooms round the riverine crescent or the profusion of polychrome marbles and pillars in the public spaces.

These are public rooms in a public building. The proposals so far made for County Hall all fail to be truly public. The developers have sought to convert the buildings into a combination of hotel and conference centre, offices and flats. The market for such development is dormant, if not positively defunct. Converting the build-

ing to a hotel would be very expensive. Meanwhile, the London School of Economics has come forward with a claim, though one based on realising the school's properties in Houghton Street, again in a depressed market. And students are not the public.

Certainly, education is one of the few growth sectors of the London economy — that and tourism. The answer, at least until some clearer future for the building is realised, may be for students to use the upper floors of County Hall under a short-term lease, while the piano nobile is opened, like the Royal Festival Hall next door, as an open-access promenade with market stalls, entertainment and refreshment.

The key to the revival of depressed quarters of big cities, and for that matter of depressed buildings, is to allow informal uses to flourish. Thus have Covent Garden, Portobello Road, Camden Lock and Whitechapel come back to life. County Hall has a magnificent location. With students above and visitors from home and overseas within, the main floor should come to life again as an intellectual marketplace, a refuge for the second-hand bookshop and other cultural small traders who can no longer afford the rents on the north bank of the Thames. Such activities draw people. People draw spending power. Spending power is the engine of urban renaissance. Out of such lateral thinking could emerge a new and desirable County Hall, London's Rive Gauche on the South Bank under one grand Piranesi roof.

Case for settling the Jubilee line

From the Chairman of Regalian Properties and others

Sir, Uncertainty about the extension of London Underground's Jubilee line ("Canary bankers may offer cash for Jubilee line", Business Times, July 11; "Civil servants to strike over Docklands move", report, July 14) makes it imperative that the case is put for east and south London and the prosperity of our capital city as a whole.

East London's successful regeneration can take place only if there is proper infrastructure to support it. The London boroughs of Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich on the south side of the river desperately need a link to London's Underground system to provide for the possibility of redevelopment and regeneration. The Tube map shows how under-served the south bank is relative to the north.

The CrossRail link will do nothing to improve that imbalance. Tower Hamlets and Newham to the north of the river, with a significant growth projected in their working populations, need the extension to support the developments already built.

London needs to expand to the east to reduce the congestion from which it suffers so badly. The Jubilee line will permit this and reduce overcrowding significantly on the Central, Circle, District and Victoria lines. It will open up many hundreds of acres of residential development land where housing costs average a third less than those in west London.

Routing the line through Waterloo will help passengers heading to and from the new Channel tunnel terminal and reduce traffic congestion in the Waterloo area. The line will also improve access to Stratford on the Channel tunnel fast link.

We should get on and build it: no other line could be constructed in London during this century. Someone is needed in government whose responsibility will be to ensure that decisions can be taken with London as a "world city" in mind.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID J. GOLDSTONE (Chairman, Regalian Properties).

PHILIP BECK (Chairman, John Mowlem).

DAVID CALVERLEY (Managing Director, Trafalgar House Property).

ALAN COCKSHAW (Chairman, Amec).

MARTIN LAING (Chairman, John Laing).

STUART LIPTON (Chief Executive, Stanhope Properties).

Regalian Group of Companies, PO Box 4NR, 44 Grosvenor Hill, W1.

July 14.

Business letters, page 28

Price of books

From Mr Konrad Syrop

Sir, Daniel Johnson's spirited attack on the net book agreement ("Pile 'em high, sell 'em cheap", July 10), contains a number of assertions

which need examination.

He claims that the abolition of the agreement will be good for the publishers and for the reading public, that small bookshops "need be no more vulnerable to discounting ... than any other small shops", and that "serious writers" (all of them?) "have nothing to fear".

I hold no brief for the publishers, who are well equipped to defend their corner; but as the author of a few books that are regarded as serious, and above all as a buyer of books and customer of my small but excellent local general bookshop, I would regard its demise not only as an inconvenience but as a serious cultural loss.

In addition to serving the needs of the adult reading public, the local bookshop helps to introduce children to the wonderful world of literature and to start them in a life-long book-buying habit.

Yet the local bookshop cannot afford to sell at a discount, for its turnover can never justify it and, in the absence of a net book agreement, it is likely to be forced out of business. In the long run Dillons, Hatchards, Claude Gill and the other large chains may flourish; but the public at large and our book-buying culture will suffer.

Yours faithfully,
KONRAD SYROP,
7 Great Spilman's,
Dulwich, SE22.

EC and Sunday trading

From Professor Nigel P. Gravells

Sir, Nothing in your report (July 9) of the recent opinion of the advocate general, nor in the previous case law of the European Court of Justice, supports the assertion by Mr Stephen Hornsby (letter, July 11) that "the legality of non-discriminatory Sunday trading laws falls within the exclusive competence of the member states".

In the context of litigation in the national courts it is of course for those courts to apply the test of legality; but the test itself remains that formulated by the European Court 13 years ago.

The Court confirmed that if non-discriminatory national measures are capable of restricting trade between the member states of the European Community, such measures are illegal unless (i) they are

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Defence bulwark as price of peace

From Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP for Wealden (Conservative)

Sir, You claim in your leading article of July 8, "What peace dividend?", that the welcome agreement between Russia and the US to reduce dramatically their strategic arsenals calls into question the case for four rather than three Trident submarines. It is absurd, you argue, to behave as though the Cold war might suddenly return.

At a time when the Russian foreign minister is accusing his defence and security counterparts of plotting a coup (report, July 13) these comments seem less than auspicious.

Of course there have been profound changes in the international security environment in recent years. But many uncertainties remain and it will be at least a decade before Russia completes the task of dismantling her warheads, which currently number some 11,000.

I cannot predict the world order in ten years' time. What I do know is that 15 countries now have a ballistic missile capability, including Pakistan, India, Libya, Iraq and Iran. Surely it is prudent to insure ourselves against the risks and uncertainties in the years ahead.

Part of that insurance policy is a credible minimum nuclear deterrent: "credible" in that we must always, throughout the 30-year life of Trident, be able to count on at least one boat being on patrol. To achieve this, a four, not three, boat force is essential — the ultimate guarantee of our national security.

Finally, the level of Britain's independent deterrent is not set in proportion to the superpowers' arsenals. Our government must make its own judgment of Britain's strategic need; and just as that need was unaffected by the arms race of the 1970s and early 1980s, so it will now not be driven by superpower reductions.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY JOHNSON SMITH (Chairman, Conservative Back-bench Defence Committee), House of Commons, July 13.

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN (ret'd)

Sir, I read your leading article, with its complaint about the maintenance of "a huge navy" for the eastern Atlantic and the Channel", shortly after noting elsewhere that the Royal Navy is entering phase 2 of its redundancy programme, involving about 450 officers and 700 ratings. How huge is huge?

Neither you, Sir, nor those responsible to the state for assessing the maritime threat to these islands ten or 20 years hence can conceivably guess, particularly against the background of present uncertainties, what that threat might be.

The chiefs of staff are wise, therefore, to keep their options open, even though the present threats seem slight compared to those of the past 40 years. Political situations can, and do, change overnight. Military capabilities, once destroyed, take an inordinately long time to rebuild.

Indeed, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Beatty, in his recollection at Edinburgh University in 1920, taught that "history shows no instance of sea supremacy once yielded being regained".

Yours faithfully,
PETER KIMM, 69 New Brighton Road, Emsworth, Hampshire.

July 8.

Fishing controls

From Mr Eric Clements

Sir, I note with satisfaction the generous space given in your pages on July 8 to the recent protest by fishermen against the Sea Fish (Conservation) Bill.

The bill is not, however, part of an EC programme as you report: it is in addition to EC proposals. It would mean British fishermen tied up, while foreign vessels fished, mostly in our waters. That unfair and unilateral restriction is what the protest was about.

Especially galling is the fact that continental vessels registered as British, to take part of our quota, would be exempt.

Yours etc.,
ERIC CLEMENTS (Campaign Director), Save Britain's Fish, 60 Harrington Street, Cleethorpes, Humberside.

July 9.

designed to protect some legitimate (as determined by the European Court) interest and (ii) the means of protection involves the minimum possible restriction of trade (the so-called "proportionality principle").

In his recent opinion, the advocate general appears to have assumed that national legislation which prohibits shops from opening on Sundays may result in a restriction on trade, in the form of a reduction in the total sales (and thus imports) of Community products.

However, he also appears to have accepted the argument of the United Kingdom government that, in so far as such legislation is designed to preserve the "socio-cultural char-

acteristics" of work patterns, it is pursuing an objective that is recognised as legitimate under EC law.

If later this year the European Court adopts that view, it will then be for this country's courts to determine whether our Sunday trading laws indeed pursue such an objective and whether they comply with the proportionality principle.

Thus, although the national court will give the final judgement in the national litigation, to speak of the "exclusive competence" of member states is to ignore the reality that, in doing so, the court is required to apply rules of Community law.

Yours faithfully,

NIGEL P. GRAVELLS,

University of Nottingham,

Department of Law,

University Park,

Nottingham NG7 2RD.

JULY 15

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 15 1992

OBITUARIES

CAMARÓN DE LA ISLA

José Monge Cruz, a talented flamenco singer known to his fans as Camarón de la Isla, died on July 2 aged 41 in Badalona in northeast Spain. He was born on the Island of San Fernando in southwest Spain.

JOSÉ Monge Cruz was the most celebrated flamenco singer of his time, a *cautón* who dominated all the styles of this musical genre: bulerías, fandangos, alegrías, segurillas and the rest. Curiously he first rose to fame as a revolutionary in the Spanish music world because of his experimental songs linking rock and flamenco; yet his subsequent reputation was based on his unparalleled domination of classic flamenco.

A small, shy man who did his best to avoid the publicity which his talent inevitably provoked, he genuinely loved music and above all the kind of music which is in the soul of every Spanish Gypsy.

Monge had what the Spaniards call *duende*, a spark of genius. Temperamental as a prima donna, he reputedly rejected many lucrative contracts, occasionally refused to show up for scheduled performances and sometimes walked off the stage after only the briefest of appearances. Camarón's abuse of drugs, heroin and cocaine, may have been a cause or an effect of that aspect of his personality. He lived life to the hilt, and, in true gypsy fashion, he mis-trusted physicians; when in need, he consulted faith-healers and "wise" men or women. He was aware, however, at least since May, that he had lung cancer; yet even then he continued to smoke heavily. His wife, Dolores "Chispa" Montoya, remarked that, while he was only 41, he had lived more than most people who reach the age of 60.

Although he did not quail at the prospect of singing night-club style flamenco, complete with orchestra and chorus, Camarón seldom looked at his audience in such circumstances. Head down, his hands marking the

records, only a minority of which would be classed by purists as unadulterated flamenco. Despite his habits and his temperament, Camarón was not only admired for his talent, he was loved by his fans. Somehow they sensed his need for their heartfelt approval when he launched into the hoarse laments of flamenco, switching from one tone to another with uncom-mon ability.

José Monge is survived by his wife.

EDMUND SKONE JAMES

Edmund Purcell Skone James, barrister, died on June 23 aged 65. He was born on June 14, 1927.

FOR the last half century the name Skone James has been synonymous with copyright law. It was the field of both Edmund Skone James and his father. They practised from the same room in the same Chambers, and *Copinger and Skone James on Copyright*, the undertaking of both, was an authority for all those needing information and guidance on the subject.

Edmund Skone James's advice was sought internationally. He covered the whole field of literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works from the classic to the comic. His professional life spanned a period of vast change and he saw the impact made by modern technology on the copyright field. As a member of the 1977 Copyright Committee, Skone

James was all for any possible simplification of what had become by that time an over-complex mixture of statute and case law.

He was - understandably - disappointed to find, when embarking on the latest edition of *Copinger*, that, in spite of all recommendations, the legislature appeared still to be capable of making things even more difficult. The son of Francis Edmund Skone James, Edmund was educated at Westminster School and New College, Oxford. He was commissioned in the RASC during his national service and in 1951 was called to the Bar in the Middle Temple where in 1977 he became a bencher.

In the last few months, like his father before him, he was head of his chambers. He was associated with *Copinger and Skone James on Copyright* from its 9th edition in 1958 to the 13th in 1991. He is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

Anette Fischer began her

career lecturing at the Royal Danish School of Librarianship in the early 1970s and had her first taste of work abroad in Dar es Salaam between 1972 and 1974 for the Danish Association for International Cooperation. She joined the Danish section of Amnesty International as a volunteer in 1969. Rapidly she became noted for her dedication, sometimes, after a day at work, spending until

3 am preparing posters and

campaign materials for mailing.

From 1983 to 1989 she

was a member of the board of

the Danish section, and its

chairman from 1986 to 1989.

Her section frequently

chose her as a delegate to

the movement's governing

international council. In 1989 the

council elected her to the

international executive com-

mittee, which oversees the

movement in between coun-

cils, and last year she was

elected chairman of the com-

mittee.

Anette Fischer's position on

the international executive

committee put her into a crucial

Amnesty International role.

There is a formidable

organisation structure with

which she coped deftly. The

committee is led by the

movement's governing inter-

national council, a gathering

of representatives from all

sections throughout the world

which meets biennially to de-

termine Amnesty Interna-

tional's policies and set

priorities. The council, repre-

senting the volunteer move-

ment, makes the decisions

while the international se-

cretariat, the professional ex-

ecutive headquartered in

London, coordinates their

implementation. The inter-

national executive commit-

tee, composed of elected

volunteers oversees this work

between councils.

Anette Fischer's task was to

steer this body on a careful

course that balanced the con-

tinuously growing demands

with the conflicting re-

alities confronted daily by the

professionals. To this sensi-

tive task she brought knowl-

edge and skills gained in

working as a volunteer for

more than 20 years. She re-

mained sure of her objectives

and was interested in cultivat-

ing grass-roots activity.

Her role for Amnesty Inter-

national took her into a world

of suffering and pain. She

was all too aware of tragedies

resulting from torture and

other punishment, political

killings, extrajudicial execu-

tions and "disappearances".

And she remained an idealist

in the face of often indiscrimi-

nate actions by those who

violated human rights.

She was married in 1972 to

Carl Eli Fischer, an electrical

technician. They loved Italy,

where they died. They were

returning from a trip on

which they had been seeking

to buy a house with a group of

friends.

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1969. Rapidly she became

noted for her dedication, some-

times collab-

orating with other

artists, during much of the

war he served in

the Royal College of Art, and was ap-

pointed OBE in 1971.

His two main painting

shows, at the Redfern Gallery

in 1944 and at Arthur

Jeffress in 1960, were in fact

shared with his elder brother

Robin. But though they were

personally close, and even

sometimes collaborated on

theatrical designs, postage

stamps (including one of the

1964 Shakespeare com-

memoration issue) and even one or

two paintings, their talents

were in many ways radically

dissimilar. While Robin's

work was all delicacy, grace

and a slightly surreal fantasy.

Christopher's was, from the

first, much broader and

grander in scale with a real

feeling for the sweeping land-

scape, whether in oils or in

watercolour, which brought

him comparisons with Steer,

on whom Robin wrote a

monograph. Although he was

labelled an academic realist,

critics were not niggardly

with their praise of his mas-

terly handling of his medium

and his sure feeling for de-

• BUSINESS 17-22
• COMMERCIAL PROPERTY 23

BUSINESS TIMES

WEDNESDAY JULY 15 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
24-28

DENZIL MCNEILANCE

TODAY IN BUSINESS

HAND ON



Sean Hand argues the case for a new regime in occupational pension schemes, with a regulator playing an important role. Page 21

TOKYO WALES

Japanese companies are behind the strong growth in Welsh engineering and the resulting increase in jobs. Page 18

RESISTANCE



Lloyd's, whose chairman is David Coleridge, is fighting against a judicial review of the insurance market. Page 19

LOOSEN HOLD

The OECD is urging the Bundesbank not to tighten monetary policy, despite the growth in money supply. Page 19

WARMING UP



Eurotherm, the electronics and instrumentation group, has increased half-time pre-tax profits. Tempus, page 20

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9162 (-0.0110)
German mark 2.8494 (-0.0038)
Exchange index 92.2 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1897.4 (+7.1)
FT-SE 100 2484.0 (+5.7)
New York Dow Jones 3336.77 (-0.54)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17064.63 (-137.10)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10.4-10.5%
3-month eligible bills: 9.7-9.8%
US Prime Rate: 10.5-11.5%
Federal Funds: 10.5-11.5%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.21-3.19%
30-year bonds: 103.1-103.3%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
\$ 1.9140 £ 1.9125*
£ DM2.8490 \$ DM1.4900*
\$ 2.8490 £ DM2.5780 \$ SWF1.3478*
£ FF16.6171 \$ FF15.0391*
\$ 1.9162 £ 1.9125*
£ 92.2 SWF1.3478 \$ 1.9125*
\$ 1.9162 £ 1.9125*
£ 92.2 SWF1.3478 \$ 1.9125*
\$ 1.9162 £ 1.9125*
£ 92.2 SWF1.3478 \$ 1.9125*

GOLD

London Fixing AM \$350.40 PM \$349.30
Close \$350.40-350.80
\$103.00-103.50
New York Comex \$381.00-381.55*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$20.10/bbl

RENTAL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 June (1987=100)

*Denotes midday trading price

Major's confidence hits scepticism

Fall in output clouds hopes of recovery

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A DROP of 0.6 per cent in manufacturing output in May dismayed the City yesterday, combined with a 1 per cent fall in industrial production.

The prime minister, however, voiced confidence that recovery is already under way. John Major's belief in renewed growth in the second half of the year met deep scepticism in the City, where analysts have become increasingly gloomy about prospects for recovery. Many have downgraded their forecasts for this year to show further economic contraction instead of the 1.25 per cent growth Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, predicted in the Budget.

The renewed fall in industrial output, after encouraging gains in recent months, would appear to rule out hopes of the economy expanding in the second quarter, even if the falls in manufacturing and energy production were reversed. In

June, a further fall in output in the quarter would take the recession into its eighth quarter.

The latest survey from Dun & Bradstreet, the authoritative business information group, shows that few firms in Britain feel assured about substantial improvement over the next three months. Just over half the firms surveyed expect new orders to remain unchanged or fall, a decrease in optimism since the last quarterly survey.

Philip Mellor, marketing manager for D&B, said: "The expected confidence boost for UK companies from the government's re-election in April has failed to materialise; there is now no certainty of recovery getting under way before 1993". There was a risk of stagnation. Although all the D&B survey's main indicators were positive, none of them was substantially stronger than three months ago.

The seasonally adjusted in-

dustry output figures issued yesterday prompted renewed fears that the economy could be heading into a fresh downturn, with both corporate and consumer sectors continuing to retrench rather than expand. Overall industrial output, which includes the volatile energy sector, fell 1 per cent in May. Revisions also halved the April rise to 0.3 per cent. Compared with May 1991, industrial output was, however, up 0.5 per cent.

Manufacturing, a better guide to the state of the economy, fell 0.6 per cent in May for a year-on-year drop of 1.1 per cent. April, originally reported as 0.2 per cent rise, was revised down to 0.1 per cent decline.

Ian Shepherdson, economist at Midland Montagu, said the manufacturing figures suggested that the promise of recovery after the election would prove another "false dawn". With the consumer still very cautious, increased production in recent months has gone into stocks, which manufacturers will have to run down. This could mean falls in output in the months ahead, Mr Shepherdson said.

The Treasury focused attention on the figures over the latest three months, which showed manufacturing output rose 0.6 per cent, albeit a slight slowdown from the 1 per cent growth in the three months to April. "Manufacturing output is typically bumpy on emergence from the trough of a recession," a Treasury spokesman said.

The weak state of the economy was reflected in factory gate prices for manufacturing industry. These rose by a provisional, unadjusted 0.1 per cent in June, leaving the annual increase unchanged at 3.6 per cent. Excluding food, drink and tobacco, output prices showed an annual rise of 3 per cent in June, up from 2.6 per cent in May. While the pickup in the core rate gives little immediate cause for concern, it could help discourage the government from any early cut base rate.

□ In America, retail sales rose 0.5 per cent in June, helped by a sharp rise in car sales. Excluding cars, sales gained a modest 0.1 per cent. Commerce department data showed consumer prices rising 0.3 per cent in June, as the biggest surge in energy prices for 20 months outweighed muted cost increases and declines elsewhere. In May, the seasonally adjusted consumer price index rose 0.1 per cent.

In New York, the dollar came off its highs for the day against the mark and other ERM currencies and scarcely responded to the latest American economic indicators.

Economy fears send the pound sliding

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

The pound dropped below 2.85 marks after government figures on industrial output reinforced market fears that recovery remains elusive. The frail state of the economy combined with the currency market's fears about a monetary tightening by the Bank of England at its council meeting tomorrow. The expectation that some German tightening will take place increased the pressures that were pushing the mark and the pound in opposite directions in the European exchange rate mechanism.

In Whitehall, it was made clear that John Major is determined to defend sterling, even if it means raising interest rates. This follows repeated efforts by the government to dispel the widely held view in the currency market that the pound would have to be devalued, especially if the Maastricht treaty fails to secure ratification. Calls from within the Conservative party for devaluation have heightened dealers' fears.

After falling to a low point of DM2.8464 yesterday afternoon, its lowest since April 8, the pound inched ahead to DM2.8494 at the official London close of 4pm, down from its DM2.8532 finish on Monday. Sterling's effective

rate against the mark, at which the authorities are obliged to intervene to defend the currency's ERM fluctuation bands, was DM2.8330, down from its DM2.8532 finish on Monday.

Avinash Persaud, a currency analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said there was still scope for the pound to fall as the floor against the peseta, now the strongest currency in the ERM, would be dragged down under the weight of the weakest currency in the system, the pound.

The worsening market sentiment for the pound was reflected in its dollar rate. It closed at \$1.9162 in London, down by more than a cent. Sterling's trade-weighted index was 0.1 lower at 92.4.

Some currency analysts believe that the pound will gain support from being close to its ERM lows, a position in which it has previously managed to regroup before gaining ground. The Bank of Italy was forced to intervene in support of the lira but no Bank of England support for sterling was detected.

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Avinash Persaud, a currency analyst at UBS Phillips

Japanese investment aids Wales

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAPANESE investment has triggered a surge in engineering employment in Wales, despite a huge decline in manufacturing employment nationwide.

Television, audio equipment and business machines factories built by Far Eastern investors typically employ more than twice as many people as plants built by European and American firms. Thanks in part to a rise in Japanese-owned manufacturing capacity, engineering employment in Wales rose 44 per cent, to 115,000, in the half-decade to 1990.

The findings, by Stephen Hill and Max Mundy of the Cardiff Business School, provide some of the strongest evidence to date of the benefit to Britain of investment from Japan. The study, for the Anglo-Japanese Economic Institute, shows that from 1985 to 1991, Japanese firms accounted for more than 30 per cent of new jobs in Wales in every year except one, when Ford, the American carmaker, made a huge investment.

Now, the authors calculate, Japanese companies provide more than 12,000 direct jobs in Wales. They also contribute to the creation of a higher than average number of indirect jobs through their "buy local" policies.

From 1983 to 1990, the study says, more than 40 Japanese firms spent £577 million to increase output. In the process, they created or safeguarded 7,500 jobs. Japa-

nese manufacturers that have invested in Wales include Sony, Matsushita, Hitachi, Sharp and Brother.

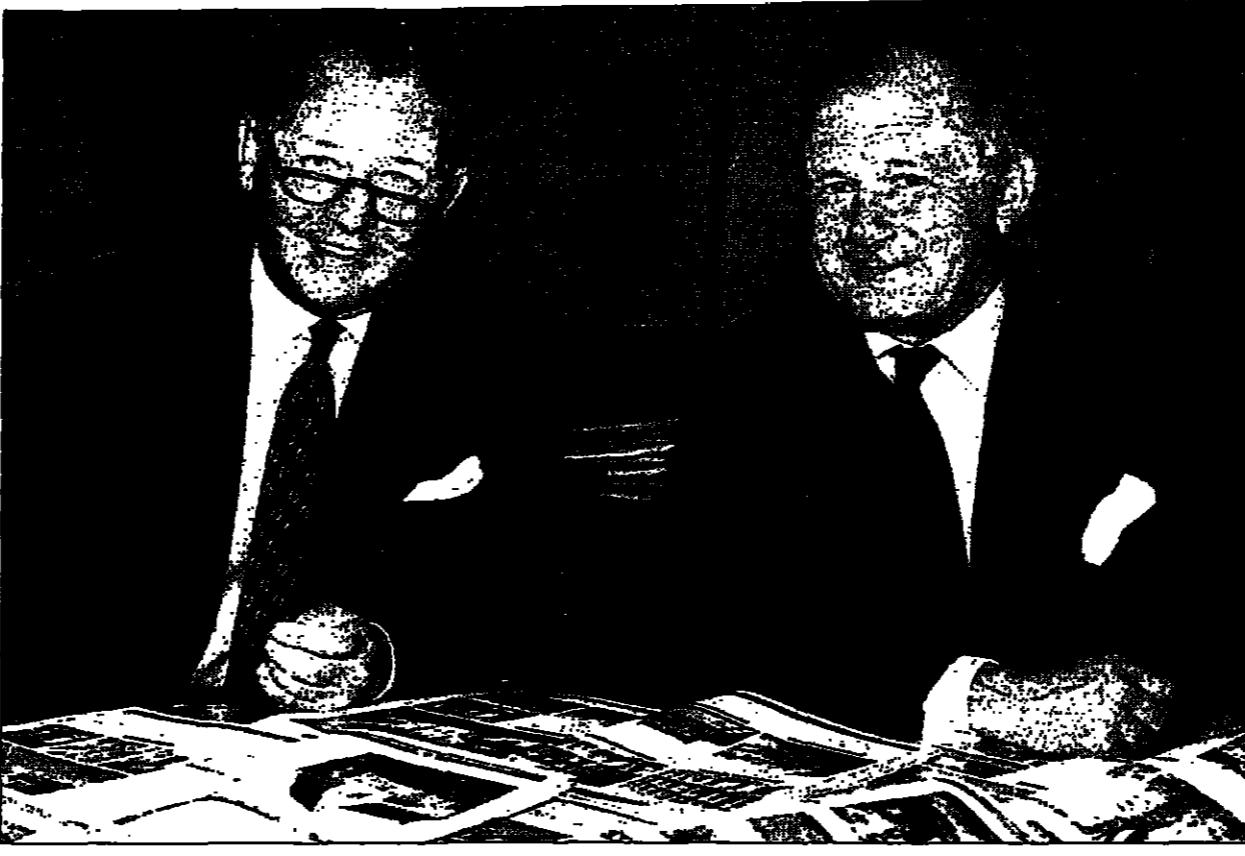
Traditionally, Wales has seen a strong inflow of foreign investment in industries such as chemicals and petroleum, metals, mechanical engineering and vehicles.

But the balance has changed. In 1974, North American companies accounted for almost 90 per cent of employment in foreign-owned firms. By 1988, that proportion had fallen to 60 per cent.

Between 1976 and 1988, employment in North American companies fell from just over 36,000 to a little over 30,000. Even in the slow, early phase of their growth, Japanese companies more than accounted for the difference. During the same period, they lifted employment from virtually nothing to 6,900.

The specialisation of Japanese investors in electronic engineering appears to account for much of the difference. North American investment projects typically provided only 68 jobs each. European projects averaged only 50 jobs each. But Japanese firms created on average 131 new jobs for every project.

Measuring the spin-off benefit of Japanese investment is difficult, the authors say. But there are "a growing number of instances where Japanese firms have placed business with local suppliers, thus aiding their rapid growth and development".



Bucknall again passes dividend

By MATTHEW BOND

LOSSES continue to mount at Bucknall Group, the quantity surveyor and project manager. In the year to April 30, the company made a pre-tax loss of £1.9 million, compared with a £1.2 million profit the year before.

Following the example set at the interim stage, when losses of £752,000 were reported, the final dividend has been scrapped, leaving shareholders with a zero payout. Last year's final was 3.5p, making a total of 4.9p.

David Bucknall, the chairman, said: "These results must be seen in the context of the

continuing problems in the United Kingdom construction industry, which represents 75 per cent of our market." He added: "We are likely to be 'very tough'."

The announcement of the losses comes just 11 months after the company raised £2.4 million through a placing and open offer; part of the proceeds were used to buy a German business.

As part of the cost-cutting regime, main board directors have taken salary cuts averaging 22 per cent while directors of subsidiary companies and senior management have agreed to 10 per cent pay reductions.

The fund-raising also helped to reduce gearing from

123 per cent to 75 per cent. The pre-tax losses include £383,000 of exceptional costs relating to an overhead reducing exercise that saw staff numbers cut by 51, to 367, in the second half. Among those who departed was Stephen Halbert, whose role as chief executive is being assumed by Mr Bucknall.

This international expansion strategy has produced a 98 per cent increase in turnover to £4.5 million. The fund-raising also helped to reduce gearing from

Brae faces George Pope, left, and Ian Hoversham, joint chairmen of John D Wood, the upmarket residential estate agent, reported a pre-tax loss of £497,000 for the year to April 30. As at the halfway stage, the company passed its dividend. Last year, it made £15,000 pre-tax and paid a total dividend of 1.5p. Mr Pope said both

London residential property and country houses had

continued to suffer from recession. That, and election uncertainties, had led to an 8 per cent drop in turnover to £4.7 million. There had been an increase in activity recently, with more sales under contract or with solicitors than a year ago.

Dunkel agrees to stay on at Gatt until 1993

ARTHUR Dunkel, 59, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, has agreed to stay as the head of the organisation until the middle of 1993. Mr Dunkel's decision, which had been widely expected, was announced at a meeting of the ruling council, which formally agreed to extend his mandate until the end of June.

The 103 member countries of Gatt last week asked the former Swiss trade diplomat to postpone his retirement, which was originally due at the end of this year. His prime task will be to seek conclusion of the long-stalled Uruguay round of world trade negotiations. Completion of the round, launched in 1986, has been held up largely by disputes between the European Community and America over farm subsidies.

Courtaulds gloomy

A GLOOMY trading statement from Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtaulds, the specialist chemicals and materials group, at the annual meeting sent the shares down 12p to 490p, although they rallied to close at 495p. He said economic conditions remained difficult and although America showed signs of an upturn, these had not yet been translated into real sales growth. Philip Morris, at Smith New Court, cut this year's pre-tax profits forecast from £22.2 million to £15 million.

BBG and Glaxo link

BRITISH Bio-Technology Group, the newly listed biotechnology concern, is to collaborate with Glaxo Holdings, the pharmaceutical company, to develop a new oral asthma treatment drug, BBG-882. The drug was designed and made by BBG. Glaxo will pay about £1 million for pre-clinical development and will conduct and fund the human clinical testing of the drug. BBG said if clinical trials were successful and the drug received regulatory approval, the company expected Glaxo to make and market the asthma drug.

Charter's Chinese deal

CHARTER Consolidated, the industrial holding group, has won an £1.6 million contract to supply mining equipment to China. Charter's Anderson group beat competition from Germany, Japan and China. The contract includes equipment to be supplied by NEI Mining Equipment, part of Rolls-Royce Industrial Power. The order was signed with China National Technical Import and Export Corporation, on behalf of Lu'an Coal Mining Bureau.

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Bundesbank warned by OECD not to raise interest rates

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN LONDON AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has warned the German Bundesbank not to overreact to the recent rise in the money supply, and to refrain from raising interest rates at the prospect of a German rate rise.

In the first report on the economy of unified Germany, the Paris-based organisation says special factors are responsible for the recent strong rise

in the M3 broad money aggregate used by the Bundesbank as a barometer for interest rates. The OECD warning comes after the voicing of concern by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, and other European finance ministers at the prospect of a German rate rise.

However, the OECD stops short of calling for lower interest rates. "A temporary above-target monetary expansion would not seem to call for further tightening of monetary conditions," it says, "but there should be no let-up in the pursuit of lower inflation, even if this means high interest rates for a prolonged period."

The OECD's sceptical assessment of the relevance of M3 as a reliable policy indicator contrasts starkly with the alarm at these figures frequently expressed by the Bundesbank.

The German central bank is, however, unlikely to be influenced by such warnings and will probably press ahead with a tightening of monetary policy at a council meeting tomorrow.

The OECD says M3 growth of almost 10 per cent — about twice the Bundesbank's target rate of growth — has probably been due to unforeseen cyclical or one-off factors. The report says: "The possibility that inflation has fundamentally changed, at least the short-run behaviour of monetary aggregates more than allowed for, cannot easily be dismissed".

It also gives warning that there is still a danger that public sector debt could soar out of control, despite the government's efforts to cut the budget deficit progressively from DM40.5 billion (£14 billion) this year to DM20 billion in 1996.

"While contingencies have

been made for such events, the report says, there is a risk of a rise in public sector indebtedness beyond current official estimates, which could have adverse implications for financial market confidence, preventing interest rates from falling."

It concludes that "temporarily high public borrowing has been acceptable in view of the exceptional circumstances" but "should now be brought down progressively, as is indeed intended by the government also, with a view to paving the way for easier monetary conditions."

The OECD appears well pleased with the speed at which the east German economy has been developing into a market-based private enterprise economy. "The high rate of privatisations and the smoothness with which this has been achieved is a major policy success and a vindication of what seemed over-optimistic expressions of intent in 1991."

However, the OECD adds that revenue raised by privatisation has been far below expectations, causing the Treuhand privatisation agency to build up debts equivalent to 1 per cent of GNP. The OECD suggests that partial privatisation could help to speed up the process of selling off the remaining companies, although it warns that hard budget constraints will remain essential in such companies to avoid the danger that they will come to rely on subsidy.

Overall, the OECD concludes that the massive transfers of resources from west to east Germany are beginning to bear fruit, although excessive wage settlements in the east have put many out of work and the need to pay unemployment benefits has substantially increased the public deficit.

Sterling up

Sterling Publishing, the business publishing and exhibitions group that owns *Debrett's Peerage*, earned pre-tax profit of £2 million in the year to March 31 (losses of £1.1 million). A final dividend of 2p (1.35p) gives a maintained 2.5p. Write-downs and provisions against closure costs resulted in an extraordinary charge of £5.3 million.

Loss at CMW

CMW, a London-based group of architects, interior designers and planning specialists, reported a loss of £471,000 in the six months to May 31 (pre-tax profits of £252,000). Redundancies cost £111,000. There is again no interim dividend.

Kalon bid

Kalon Group, bidding £91.5 million in new shares for Manders (Holdings) UK, has accepted from 6.3 per cent by the first closing date. The offer is extended to August 3.

Brewer offer

Greene King has inch forward in its hostile £101.5 million offer for Morland & Co, the Thames Valley-based brewer, with a handful of further acceptances taking its total to 47.2 per cent. The offer closes finally on July 24.

Philips Electronics N.V. of the Netherlands hereby declares to have received rectification of a previous announcement by the Stichting Preferred Aandelen Philips under the Major Holdings in Listed Companies Disclosure Act of the Netherlands.

The content of this notification is available upon request free of charge at the following address: Philips Electronics UK Limited, Financial Department, 1-19 Trottington Place, London WC1E 7HD. Eindhoven, June 30, 1992

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Low profits higher: Jim Leng, left, head of European operations at Low & Bonar, the plastics and packaging group, and Roland Jarvis, group chief executive, beat the recession with a 4.9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits in the first half of the financial year

EC to scrutinise German pipes alliance

FROM REUTER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission said it had "serious doubts" about the competitive impact of a joint steel-pipe venture between Mannesmann Röhren-Werke and Hoesch of Germany.

The commission is enquiring into the venture, despite protestations from German authorities that it comes within their competence. "We have to be sure beyond all doubt that it's only a problem on the German market," a commission spokesman said.

British Steel is almost totally excluded from the German

market for steel pipes, which is worth about \$200 million a year. The enquiry could take up to four months.

"After a preliminary investigation, the commission has come to the conclusion that the proposed concentration raises serious doubt as to its compatibility with the common market in relation to the market in Germany for steel pipes used for gas pipelines," the EC executive said in a statement.

The commission can veto or force changes in mergers and joint ventures which it deems

harm competition on EC markets.

The commission turned down a request by the Bundeskartellamt, Germany's anti-monopoly watchdog, to hand over responsibility for the Mannesmann-Hoesch case to its discretion.

The link-up also involves the transfer by Hoesch of all its non-precision steel tube operations to Mannesmann and the surrender by Hoesch to Mannesmann of a 50 per cent stake in its Gebrüder Fuchs subsidiary.

The commission has four months to complete its enquiry into the deal under EC rules.

The statement said the Mannesmann-Hoesch alliance

Merrill reports record profits

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON, IN NEW YORK

CORPORATE rights issues and new issues powered Merrill Lynch, America's largest stockbroker, to record profits in the first half of this year.

The broker announced yesterday that half-time earnings rose 38 per cent to \$505.2 million on total income of \$6.7 billion for the six months ended June. Its shares, which have traded between \$66.75 and \$39.375 this year, climbed 25 cents to \$51.75.

Analysts had turned cautious on the big Wall Street firms, which have been building even higher earnings than last year's record figures through heavy share trading volumes and huge underwriting profits.

Merrill said that while revenue rose across all its business segments, underwriting grew the most, at 27 per cent. Some are still wary that boom times will continue. The new issue and rights issue market is already showing signs of falling off and fund managers are beginning to take profits on the sharp market rise over the past six months.

They are beginning to show nervousness at the prospect of a Democratic victory in the US presidential elections in November, which analysts say is not priced into the market.

PaineWebber Group, another big American broker, reported a 35 per cent increase in second-quarter earnings on revenues 14 per cent higher and said each of its core businesses contributed strongly.

PaineWebber has added about 350 brokers in the past year, bringing the total to about 4,900.

BCCI creditors seek documents

CREDITORS of the disgraced Bank of Credit and Commerce International, appealing against a compensation plan, called on the Abu Dhabi majority shareholders to release documents to the liquidators.

A group of creditors want the Appeal Court to overturn approval for a scheme backed by Abu Dhabi and Touche Ross, the liquidator, to compensate those who lost money when regulators closed BCCI in July last year. On the second day of the appeal, the creditors

said Abu Dhabi should withdraw from court proceedings unless it agreed to give liquidators unrestricted access to key documents.

They say compensation terms offered by Abu Dhabi are too little, too late and that the senior judge who approved the plan last month overrode the wishes of the creditors. Michael Crystal, the liquidator's lawyer, said the court-appointed receiver in Abu Dhabi had secured BCCI files which are needed for civil prosecutions of BCCI officials.

The case continues.

Virani is remanded in fraud case

BY OUR CITY STAFF

NAZMUDIN Virani, chief executive and chairman of Control Securities, the public houses and property group, charged with fraud in connection with the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International, was further remanded until December 1 at City of London magistrates court yesterday.

Mr Virani, 45, of Putney, London, had been granted

bail previously with two sureties of £500,000 and one of £250,000. Conditions of his bail include surrender his passport and remaining in the UK.

Mr Virani is charged that he "dishonestly and with a view to gain for himself or others, or with intent to cause loss to others, did conspire with Mohammed Moizul Haque and others to account falsely, in

that the furnished audit confirmations to Messrs Price Waterhouse, the external auditors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) showing that Duffield Ltd, Impactlight Ltd and Virani Group UK Ltd owed over the said period, \$4 million, which to his knowledge was misleading, false or deceptive....

Diary, page 23

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Im p. %	Gr id %	High	Low	Stock	Price	Im p. %	Gr id %
SHORTS (under 5 years)											
LONGS (over 15 years)											
101 ⁺	100 ⁺	Each 12.5% 1992	100 ⁺	-1%	10%	121 ⁺	118 ⁺	Each 19.5% 1992-01	120 ⁺	-1%	118 ⁺
97 ⁺	95 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 1993	97 ⁺	-2%	10%	105 ⁺	104 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 2002	105 ⁺	-1%	93.22
95 ⁺	92 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 1993	95 ⁺	-1%	10%	107 ⁺	105 ⁺	Fund 10% 2003	105 ⁺	-1%	9.05
92 ⁺	90 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 1993	92 ⁺	-1%	10%	109 ⁺	107 ⁺	Fund 10% 1999-01	105 ⁺	-1%	7.51
90 ⁺	88 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 1993	90 ⁺	-1%	10%	110 ⁺	108 ⁺	Fund 10% 2000	105 ⁺	-1%	8.14
88 ⁺	86 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 1993	88 ⁺	-1%	10%	112 ⁺	110 ⁺	Fund 10% 2001	105 ⁺	-1%	9.27
86 ⁺	84 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 1993	86 ⁺	-1%	10%	114 ⁺	112 ⁺	Fund 10% 2002	105 ⁺	-1%	9.11
84 ⁺	82 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 1993	84 ⁺	-1%	10%	116 ⁺	114 ⁺	Fund 11% 2003-04	105 ⁺	-1%	9.22
82 ⁺	80 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 1993	82 ⁺	-1%	10%	117 ⁺	115 ⁺	Fund 11% 2004	105 ⁺	-1%	9.37
80 ⁺	78 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 1993	80 ⁺	-1%	10%	119 ⁺	117 ⁺	Fund 11% 2005	105 ⁺	-1%	9.44
78 ⁺	76 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 1993	78 ⁺	-1%	10%	120 ⁺	118 ⁺	Fund 12% 2005-06	105 ⁺	-1%	10.14
76 ⁺	74 ⁺	Fund 9.5% 1993	76 ⁺	-1%	10%	121 ⁺	119 ⁺	Fund 12% 2006-07	105 ⁺	-1%	9.13
INDEX-LINKED											
107 ⁺	106 ⁺	Times 9.5% 1992-93	107 ⁺	-1%	10%	127 ⁺	126 ⁺	Times 12% 1992-93	127 ⁺	-1%	8.64
105 ⁺	104 ⁺	Times 10% 1993	105 ⁺	-1%	10%	129 ⁺	128 ⁺	Times 12% 2002-03	127 ⁺	-1%	9.11
104 ⁺	103 ⁺	Times 12% 1994	104 ⁺	-1%	10%	130 ⁺	129 ⁺	Times 12% 2003-04	127 ⁺	-1%	9.21
103 ⁺	102 ⁺	Times 12% 1995	103 ⁺	-1%	10%	131 ⁺	130 ⁺	Times 12% 2004-05	127 ⁺	-1%	9.31
102 ⁺	101 ⁺	Times 12% 1996	102<								

Low & Bonar packaged for long-term

LOW & Bonar, the packaging and plastics company with products ranging from plastic glass to breakfast cereal packets, has reinforced its reputation for steady if unspectacular growth. Strong gains in Europe in the first half have been tempered by reduced profits in America and Canada. Profits before tax advanced 4.9 per cent to £11.81 million in the six months to end-May. Turnover fell from £152.2 million to £151 million, while earnings rose 6.7 per cent from 8.80p to 9.39p a share. The interim dividend stays at 2.7p.

European operations, which focus on consumer packaging, including biscuit wrappers and compost bags, lifted profits 20 per cent to £10.9 million, helped by increased margins of 10.6 per cent (9 per cent). Competition in the industrial shipping sack sector dragged operating profits in North America down to £2.2 million (£3.3 million).

Conscious of the need to clean up its North American operations, the company has found a new chief executive for its operations there. He is Jim Heilig, a respected player in flexible packaging circles. In addition to about 200 redundancies in Europe in the past year, leaving the worldwide workforce at 4,500, it will not be surprising to see jobs lost across the



Hand on the wheel: Colin Cooke, left, chairman, and John Foley, of Triplex Lloyd

Triplex Lloyd

ON the face of things, Triplex Lloyd is just the kind of company one would expect to be feeling the worst ravages of the recession. Servicing the motor, engineering and building industries is scarcely the most lucrative of trades in the present climate, but the group has held pre-tax profits at £7.1 million in the year to end-March, just 6.5 per cent lower than previously.

The group's success in the motor industry, largely responsible for the automotive and engineering division's advance from £2.66 million to £4.25 million, justifies the

heavy capital investment poured into the business in recent years, giving it a competitive edge. So much so that Triplex, of which Colin Cooke is chairman, is angling for supply contracts in Japan.

No such benefits came to the aid of the building products division, where profits fell from £2.36 million to £1.30 million, and all that can be claimed is that costs have been taken out *pro rata* to the fall in demand. But the dividend, held at 7p for the year, and covered 1.6 times by earn-

able precision castings profits to grow from £2.57 million to £3.63 million.

Post-investment is paying off, and the group, with John Foley as finance director, will not stint on necessary capital expenditure in future, but cash flow remains positive. Whether there will be business to win as the prospect of an economic recovery disappears over the horizon remains the biggest imponderable, but the dividend, held at 7p for the year, and covered 1.6 times by earn-

ings looks safe enough, at least for the current year. At 13.8p, on a 12.1 multiple, Triplex would be a good recovery stock, if there were to be a recovery.

Eurotherm

JACK LEONARD, founder and chairman of Eurotherm International, is a believer in the cynical economist's maxim that recessions were invented to shake up slack management. He accepts that his com-

pany has suffered excessively since 1989 because it went into the downturn as a loose federation of 34 separate companies, several of which were charging down low-margin blind alleys, with little direction from the centre. One telling example: a group whose 20 per cent compound growth over a quarter of a century had been based on sophisticated control equipment found itself by historical accident the owner of an American office clearing business, now sold.

Cutbacks in spending by the big industrial groups have sent Eurotherm's sales force in search of new markets, with some success. The first fruits of a more focused approach, and a belt-tightening exercise that cost the jobs of 20 per cent of the workforce, were on offer with interim figures showing pre-tax profits up 47 per cent to £6.71 million to end-April. The dividend is up 20 per cent to 3p, although half the rise is to correct the imbalance with the final payment.

Eurotherm should make £14 million without struggling this year, putting the shares at 36p on a forward multiple of 17, falling to about 13 for the next financial year. The shares have risen from 240p a year ago and while they remain a firm long-term hold, with no sign of an upturn in the company's chosen markets most of the recovery potential looks to be in the price already.

Dee slips in early trade as investors stay away

New York — Blue chips drifted in sluggish late-morning trading as investors showed little interest in shares. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 1.31 points to 3,336. □ Singapore — Shares ended mostly weaker with no fresh incentives, but the key market index was slightly higher on selective blue-chip buying. The Straits Times industrial index inched up by 0.9 of a point to 1,483.78. □ Frankfurt — German prices were slightly weaker at the end of a subdued day. The Dax index ended 2.40 points lower at 1,734.10. □ Sydney — Share prices closed marginally lower. The all-ordinary index closed 0.1 of a point down at 1,638.8.

STOCK MARKET

Bulls and bears clash over German rates

A TWO-WAY struggle developed in the equity market with the bulls and the bears placing their bets on whether the Germans would raise interest rates at tomorrow's meeting of the Bundesbank. By the close of business, it looked as though the bulls had gained the upper hand, but only just. The FT-SE 100 index ended a volatile day with a small rise of 5.7 points to 2,484, having rebounded from an early fall of almost 17 points and helped by an opening rise on Wall Street.

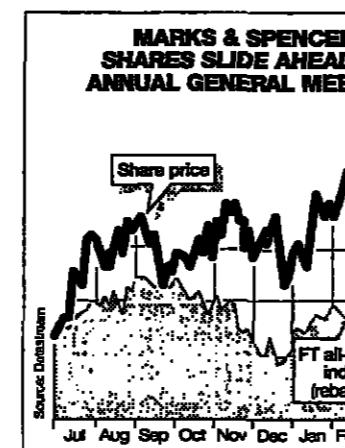
Brokers said that a decision to peg the German discount rate would remove some of the pressure from sterling and could be the signal for a sustained rally in the equity market after the recent heavy falls. City sceptics are convinced that the equity market has further to fall. But the meagre turnover — only 374 million shares changed hands — indicated that even the most optimistic investor is not prepared to get too carried away.

International companies put in a late rise, encouraged by the dollar's renewed strength against the mark. They were led by Reuters, the international news agency

and financial information group, which climbed 28p to £11.69 as Goldman Sachs, the New York securities house, became a buyer before the interim figures next week. These are expected to show the pre-tax profits £20 million higher at £190 million.

There were also gains for Cadbury Schweppes, 7p to 481p, BP, 6.4p to 2074p, BT, 3p to 355p and Cable and Wireless, 6p to 540p. BAT Industries recovered from an early fall to finish 1p firmer at 777p as Hoare Govett, the broker, started picking up stock before the half-year figures later this month. Hoare Govett also likes J Sainsbury, 5p dearer at 456p, and has increased its profit forecast for the current year by £10 million to £735 million. Fund managers are looking to increase their weightings in the food retailers. The sector is seen as a defensive play in times of economic hardship.

Carlton Communications, the film and video services group, which takes over the London independent television franchise from Thames next year, enjoyed a late rise, adding 9p to 616p as at least one big buyer began chasing



the shares and caught market-makers short of stock.

BET, the industrial services group, fell 4p to 129p after

Preference Shares. A total of £500 million-worth of Amps was issued in 1989. But John Clark, the chief executive, was

Vodafone rose 4p to 309p with Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, recommending the shares. Henderson expects Vodafone to match the low-user tariff proposed by its rival, Cellnet. Pre-tax profits in the current year are set to grow from £271.5 million to £330 million.

announcing a one-for-four rights issue at 110p to raise £200.7 million. The proceeds will be used to buy back £380 million of Auction Marker

bearish about prospects, claiming that he could see little evidence of any recovery in BET's main markets. Fisons continued to recover

from its recent losses with a rise of 6p to 211p. The shares fell sharply last week after claims that the weekend press would contain another bearish story about the group. The story never appeared and now Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has been taking advantage of the subsequent weakness to buy the shares. Kleinwort has been saying for some time that Fisons has been oversold.

The newly floated British Biotechnology Group was unchanged at 425p after announcing a link-up with Glaxo to develop an oral treatment for asthma. Glaxo is paying British Biotechnology £1 million to carry out pre-clinical development and will also fund clinical trials. Glaxo recovered from an early fall to 193p better at 693p.

Marks & Spencer dipped below the 300p level as analysts became increasingly pessimistic. UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, is believed to have cut its profit forecast for this year and 1993 by £30 million to £720 million and £800 million respectively. But UBS refused to comment on this. County NatWest WoodMac is forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits at M&S during the

current year from £626 million to £740 million. The shares eventually closed 6p lighter at 299p before Friday's annual general meeting.

Intercare, the USM quoted medical supplies group, jumped 6p to 140p after UBS Phillips & Drew came out with a buy recommendation. The broker says the shares have underperformed the market by 15 per cent since the interim figures were published a month ago. UBS says the shares now represent good value for money and it is forecasting compound earnings growth of 19 per cent for this year and next with pre-tax profits set to climb from £1.52 million to £3.35 million.

Birse Group, 19p before recovering to finish all-square at 23p, after plunging into the red with a pre-tax loss of £13.1 million, compared with a profit of £9.9 million. But the group says it has a satisfactory order book and expects cash flow to be positive.

John D Wood eased 2p to 32p in the USM after reporting a loss of almost £500,000, against a profit of £15,000.

MICHAEL CLARK

FT-SE VOLUMES

Abbey Nat	2,900	Cous Vtia	638	Legal & Gm	3,100	RYI Bk Scot	288
All-lyons	790	Cm Union	122	MB Cards	1,400	Sainsbury	1,000
Anglian W	1,100	Coursearts	1,700	MEPC	2,800	Son & New	900
Argyll Gp	2,000	Env Chira	1,200	Scot Power	3,200	Stearns	2,000
Arlo Wigan	130	Enterpr Gp	1,900	Markt Sp	5,100	Stearns	2,000
AB Foods	88	Europ	322	NatWest Bk	3,900	Stevens	490
BAA	956	Fisons	2,500	NatWest Bk	3,900	Stevens	490
BAT Inds	7,700	Forre	5,100	Shell Trans	3,000	Stevens	490
Bell	220	Forre	5,100	Smith Power	947	Stevens	490
BOC	642	Gfus A	145	Smiths Fds	235	Smiths	2,600
BP	8,500	Gen Acc	451	Smiths Fds	235	Smiths	2,600
BT	3,400	P & O	1,900	Smiths Fds	235	Smiths	2,600
BTR	1,600	Pearson	2,000	Sun Allinc	978	Smiths	2,600
Bk of Scot	2,700	Pilkington	1,800	TSB	3,200	Stevens	490
Barclays	4,400	PowerGen	915	Tate & Lyle	1,916	Stevens	490
Bass	721	Prudential	3,800	Tesco	4,600	Stevens	490
Blue Circle	693	RMC	268	Thames W	1,000	Stevens	490
Boots	1,180	RTE	720	Thru El	1,000	Stevens	490
Brown Boveri	220	Rank Org	1,700	Thru El	1,000	Stevens	490
Brit Aero	656	Redland	629	Unilever	732	Stevens	490
Brit Altrups	2,500	Reed Ind	117	Vodafone	973	Stevens	490
Brit Gas	2,500	Renold	598	Wellcome	452	Stevens	490
Brit Steel	522	Reutlers	271	Whitbread	1,200	Stevens	490
Brit Steel	3,400	Rolls Royce	448	Wimpey Ind	1,000	Stevens	490
Cable Wire	1,200	Land Sea	2,400	Wimpey Ind	1,000	Stevens	490
Cadbury	1,600	Laporte	123	Witwaters	2,000	Stevens	490

LJFF-E OPTIONS

Series	Call	Put	Series	Call	Put	Series	Call	Put
Jul	100	100	Jul	100	100	Jul	100	100
Aug	100	100	Sep	100	100	Oct	100	100
Sep	100	100	Oct	100	100	Nov	100	100
Oct	100	100	Nov	100	100	Dec	100	100
Nov	100	100	Dec	100	100	Jan	100	100
Dec	100	100	Jan	100	100	Feb	100	100
Jan	100	100	Feb	100	100	Mar	100	100
Feb	100	100	Mar	100	100	Apr	100	100
Mar	100	100	Apr	100	100	May	100	100
Apr	100	100	May	100	100	Jun	100	100
May	100	100	Jun	100	100	Jul	100	100
Jun	100	100	Jul	100	100	Aug	100	100
Jul	100	100	Aug	100	100	Sep	100	100
Aug	100	100	Sep	100	100	Oct	100	100
Sep	100	100	Oct	10				

Handsome legacy from Lord King

Lord King hands over the reins of a thriving company to his successor, Sir Colin Marshall, who will take over as chairman of British Airways next year. BA was not always as it is today, strong operationally and, despite the recession, easily the most profitable of the world's leading airlines. Among BA's peer group, financial disasters have been commonplace. In the US, several have been forced to the brink of bankruptcy and now survive courtesy of the courts and the protections afforded by chapter 11.

Lord King and Colin Marshall have been a formidable combination of fire and ice that has stood BA in good stead over the past few years. But Lord King's Yorkshire doggedness and determination to press for improvement year after year have been the driving force behind the transformation from an overmanned loss-making bureaucracy in the days before privatisation.

Without constant pressure to streamline and willingness to absorb the attendant costs of redundancy and restructuring, BA would have remained vulnerable to the airline recession that effectively destroyed so many of its competitors. Instead, BA launched a further ferocious attack on its cost base and squeezed out profits of £285 million last year. Lord King's eagerness to take BA into the private sector and to resist the constraints and incursions of his Whitehall regulators won him little popularity in government and even led to a carpeting at 10 Downing Street.

But there have been failures too. In order to keep delivering to shareholders, and pre-empt its competition, BA must expand abroad. There are limits to cost-saving from the existing corporate structure though this year's target is a further £150 million. The planned links with United, Sabena and KLM came to nothing in the latter case because BA's obsession with cost-cutting was too uncomfortable a prospect for its would-be partner. But if the latest efforts to establish a cost-effective deal in the US come to fruition, the earlier setbacks will be seen as nothing more than that. BA has identified its corporate strategy and is undeniably pursuing it vigorously.

Positive BET

BET first ran out of road when its buses were nationalised by the post-war Labour government. It seems to be having been going round the houses looking for an identity ever since. Whether the new crew can chart a profitable course for the 110 companies the previous managements have flung together in bursts of expansive acquisition activity, time alone will tell, but the early signs are positive. John Clark, chief executive, and Robert Mackenzie, finance director, bit the bullet a month ago when loading £90 million of exceptional charges onto the 1991-2 figures, and more than halving the dividend. Now they have turned their attention to the balance sheet, and the controversial Amps, which at best were unwieldy in terms of total shareholders' funds and at worst represented a potential landmine. BET led the cavalcade of British companies into this mercurial form of late eighties designer financing, which, despite winning Accounting Standards Board classification as non-equity shareholders' funds, still retained too many characteristics of debt for the liking of many purists. The market has resolved the dilemma. Amps have lost their appeal and become too expensive, so they are going, even though it means a rights issue at not the most opportune of times. A successful underwriting exercise and a resilient share price point to the market's belief that at last BET appears to have a strong pair of hands on the wheel.

Referee is needed to make firms play the pensions game fairly

Sean Hand argues that the legal framework for pension schemes ought to be replaced by a new system, with a regulator playing a crucial role

That trust law in its present form is an inadequate legal framework for occupational pension schemes was the unequivocal conclusion of the Social Security Select Committee. There are indeed irrefutable arguments in favour of a new regime for occupational (that is, employer-sponsored) pension schemes, comprising a pensions act, a pensions tribunal and a single pensions regulator. Abolition of the trust law basis is, however, unlikely. Codification by legislation is the more likely outcome.

The fundamental question confronting Professor Goode's committee should be how best to secure an employer's pension promise. The current system of regulation and law is complex and bewildering, for several reasons:

There are four regulators with peripheral responsibilities: — the DTT (insured schemes), the Inland Revenue, the Occupational Pensions Board and the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro).

There is a vast body of constantly changing, highly technical tax and social security legislation.

Trust law, while ensuring flexibility, provides an inadequate yardstick for the behaviour of trustees and employers, because of the generality of many trust concepts and the ease with which they can be excluded from occupational pension scheme trusts.

The current structure has grown piecemeal and is now wholly unsuited to safeguarding the pension promise.

If the trust law framework is to be retained, a pensions act is essential to codify and supplement the application of trust law principles to schemes. It is all very well to oblige a fiduciary to act honestly, in what he believes to be the best interests of the beneficiaries. But how is a trustee (even an honest one) to apply that principle in the numerous areas where he may come into conflict with the employer? The pension benefits of about 19 million people are at stake and we can no longer naively assume that trustees will always be true fiduciaries. The law must always be everything possible to ensure that they perform their function properly.

To achieve this, we need a clear set of rules, a monitoring system to ensure compliance and effective sanctions for non-compliance to deter those tempted to betray their office.

Consideration should be given to requiring proposed trustees to satisfy fit and proper person criteria.

They should be subject to disqualification by a regulator if they fail to maintain standards. The widespread practice of trustees excluding their own liability for negligence and having indemnities out of their funds



should be abolished and replaced with compulsory insurance for trust assets and scheme assets and fiduciary bonding in the American style.

Many of the most difficult questions facing trustees involve serious conflicts of interest. As an interim measure, the dangers arising from such conflicts could be diminished by requiring employers to appoint at least one professional trustee, who could be obliged to seek independent professional advice. In the longer term, issues giving rise to conflicts of interest need to be addressed and resolved. Trustees should be accountable to scheme members. Consultation with members should be required at least annually and on all important matters such as proposed amendments, investment policy changes, appointment and removal of trustees and scheme advisers.

The traditional view of the employer in trust law (a donor of unilateral benevolence) is entirely inappropriate to occupational pension schemes. The voluntary nature of the employer's pension promise and his financial interest in the scheme, of course, entitle him to retain control over his own funding rate and, arguably, some interest in real surpluses that might arise when final salary schemes are wound up. Beyond that, the balance of power between employers and trustees in scheme rules.

selection of trustees, development of investment policy and discretionary benefit improvements should be determined by persons independent of the employer and subject to clearly defined fiduciary responsibilities. The employer should be encouraged to maintain an active interest through consultation and representation on the board of trustees, but at no time should he be allowed to have control of the trustees. The employer's continuing financial interest in schemes (that is, in minimising the cost to him) conflicts with the interest of members in maximising benefits.

Given that occupational pension scheme assets in the UK are estimated to be worth £300 billion, it is not surprising to find strong vested interests in preserving the status quo. If Imro continues to authorise trustees to invest schemes' assets themselves (rather than delegate that function), investment restrictions should be introduced and policed by a regulator. Fund managers and banks handling schemes' assets should have to designate those assets and assume full fiduciary obligations to members, as is the case in America. Unit trust managers are already in this position.

Fund managers should also be required to obtain voting instructions from trustees and be prohibited from investing schemes' assets in connected enterprises. The propriety of pooling arrangements for schemes' assets and the prudence of allowing trustees or fund managers to be asset custodians as well should also be reviewed. Schemes' auditors should be required to carry out periodic checks of custody arrangements and report findings to a regulator.

Without adequate funding and skilled staff, an occupational pension scheme regulator could prove to be ineffective. The regulator will need either to bring under one umbrella the functions of the Inland Revenue, the Occupational Pensions Board and Imro (together with its own new regulatory powers), or to develop a system of more effective co-operation than exists currently. The powers of the regulator should include responsibility for monitoring, trustee appointments, schemes' financial reporting, investments, activities of schemes' professional advisers and interaction between them. In addition, a regulator would need an investigatory and enforcement facility linked with a pensions tribunal, so that rapid and effective action could be taken when necessary.

One of the greatest intricacies of the present system is the inability of occupational pension scheme mem-

bers to obtain redress for grievances. Access to the High Court is slow and expensive, and members find it difficult, if not impossible, to fund actions. In resisting claims, trustees are usually able to rely on scheme assets. A pensions tribunal comprising a senior lawyer and pensions experts should be established and a method of funding members' claims found. The tribunal should have powers comparable to those of the High Court.

Scheme members are the real investors, despite the failure of the Financial Services Act to recognise this. A pensions act should not only remedy that defect but also recognise that pensions are deferred pay, with all that that implies for employers' trust law powers. Scheme members should have rights akin to those of company shareholders.

The right of members to share in scheme surpluses should be established and appropriate formulae for equitable distribution of surpluses between employers and members drawn up. Judgments of the mid-1980s, which have been reversed as if they contained oracular utterances about employers' rights to surplus in balance of cost schemes, should no longer be regarded as the be-all and end-all. Judicial thinking has moved on, but many in the industry appear to have been left behind.

A pensions act should append model deeds and rules. Their adoption by individual schemes should be optional but the principles expressed should be set out in the act and made mandatory.

Standardisation should not be limited to schemes' documentation. One of the greatest sources of conflict, after the right to a share in surpluses, is the actuarial principles on which final salary schemes are funded. The lack of uniformity in these principles makes inter-scheme transfers needlessly difficult and deprives the concept of an actuarial surplus (that is, a notional surplus in a continuing scheme) of meaning. It also makes interpretation of surpluses disclosed in company accounts difficult and, in some cases, misleading for prospective lenders. Consideration should be given to introducing standardised funding assumptions, along with statutory criteria for calculating and paying transfer values within specified time limits.

All this will take time. What is to be done meanwhile? Several immediate improvements were suggested in the Select Committee's report, notably in the areas of information disclosure and financial reporting. Figures published by Dun & Bradstreet this week reveal that company failures rose to 30,722 in the first six months of this year. Many employers facing the threat of insolvency will doubtless be looking closely at their pension funds in the coming months. It remains to be seen whether the government can stomach the ideological consequences of intervention, particularly in the light of the privatisations of British Rail and British Coal.

Sean Hand is a partner in Cameron Markby Hewitt, a London firm of solicitors.

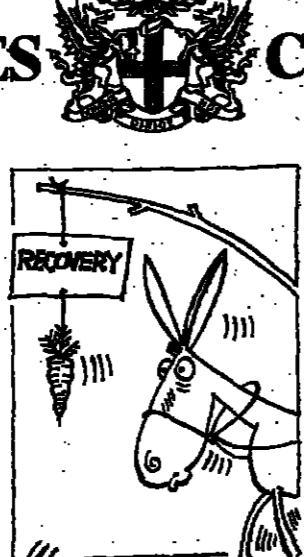
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Chemical reaction

AS THE Chemical Corporate Challenge gets under way in Battersea Park today — known as the Mammy Hammy run before the merger of Manufacturers Hanover Trust with Chemical Bank — it seems the "merger of equals" between Chemical and MHT has not been so equal after all. A year after the merger, fewer than half of the original 36-strong MHT foreign exchange team remain while most of the larger Chemical forex team still have their jobs. Six MHT staff left immediately the merger was announced and ten others have resigned or accepted voluntary redundancy in the past six months. The final straw for MHT staff came on Friday when Chemical scrapped its four-strong strategic trading team, headed by former MHT man Ray Payne. Only one was retained — the sole Chemical man, Alan Brann. Chemical's foreign exchange manager, says there has been "no ostracisation" and that the strategic dealer retained was simply "the right man for the job". In the past six months, he says, eight Chemical forex people have also left.

History repeated

ALASTAIR Ross Goobey, James Capel's chief investment strategist, who spent a year before the last general election as a special adviser to Norman Lamont, did not spend all the time focusing on politics. He also wrote a book on the 1980s property boom



and crash. Bricks & Mortar, which Century publishes this month, Ross Goobey was at work on the final proofs when Olympia & York and Mountleigh crashed in May, which explains why only a few pages are devoted to the collapse of Canary Wharf. But he managed some references to O&Y's fall and insists "the fact that I am covered by my prognostications on Canary Wharf is fine by me". His central thesis is that the property men of the 1980s such as Roseleigh's Godfrey Bradman made the same mistakes as the fallen men of the 1970s crash whereas survivors like Lord Sterling and John Ritblat avoided them the second time. "The new men thought they could walk on water," says Ross Goobey.

They made the same mistakes as their predecessors. It's a story about human nature." — André thunders in

MERRILL Lynch is planning to step up its UK research effort after the appointment of CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

One lump privatisation of coal is not the answer

From the editorial director, Institute of Economic Affairs, Sir, Mr Lester (7th July 1992)

Comments on the differing views on coal privatisation expressed by Mr Meads and by me. I was not, of course, arguing (intentionally or otherwise) for a reduction in competition. Nor did I say that electricity from existing coal stations is cheaper than from new gas stations. I said a competitive market would settle the issue.

The "one lump" view of coal privatisation seems to me dangerous, particularly since it is so similar to the arguments used successfully by British Gas and the CEBG which led to the unfortunate results outlined in my article. I accept that interest groups such as management and unions in industries to be privatised will make what case they will to avoid division and consequent loss of market power. But that does not mean we should accept their views. Claims that

there is enough competition already (what is "enough?") carry little weight. If Mr Lester believes in the benefits of competition, as he seems to do, should he not want coal-to-coal competition? There would be obvious advantages in having companies competing to mine and market coal in British conditions: new knowledge and new ideas would be produced, there would be more entrepreneurship and innovation, as is the way with competitive markets. The benefits of competition among a few large companies producing different fuels are likely to be much less. An additional benefit from breaking up British Coal is that it would avoid the continuation of a pressure group which would always be lobbying to keep out imports.

Or is Mr Lester's case that action to make electricity generation more competitive is not on the political agenda? "Political impossibility" is perhaps an even more dangerous concept than "enough competition already" since it leads to inaction or action too late. If the ill-considered structure of generation does remain and lead to a "one lump" form of coal privatisation, it may well then be claimed that the need to alter the structure of generation is much diminished. Alternatively, if in a few years time generation is made more competitive, even though the unitary structure of the coal industry will then be inappropriate it will no doubt be argued that it is "politically impossible" to change it.

One lump is not the answer. Nor is two. Nor is the piece-meal intervention inevitably associated with either. Instead we need genuine rivalry both in electricity generation and in

lobbying to keep out imports.

Yours faithfully,

COLIN ROBINSON,

Professor of Economics,

University of Surrey,

Editorial Director, Institute of

Economic Affairs

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Portfolio

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From your Portfolio, Platinum card checks your equity share movements on this page only. Add them up to give you a general idea of the value of your portfolio. If it is much less than you have won outright or a share of the daily price money, start saving. You will have your own portfolio card. Always have your card when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Gain or loss

No	Company	Group	Price	div	Net	Yld	P/E
1	Abbey Ntl	Banks/Disc	103	-3	83	24	142
2	Boat (Henry)	Building/Rds	103	-3	83	24	142
3	Hawthorn Rds	Foods	103	-3	83	24	142
4	Asherman	Chem. Plts	103	-3	83	24	142
5	Nat Aust Blk	Banks/Disc	103	-3	83	24	142
6	North West	Water	103	-3	83	24	142
7	Kwik Save	Foods	103	-3	83	24	142
8	Grand Met	Breweries	103	-3	83	24	142
9	Johnson Matth	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
10	Interact Gp	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
11	Br Aeropost	Motor/Air	103	-3	83	24	142
12	Provident	Banks/Disc	103	-3	83	24	142
13	Bereworth	Drayp. Strs	103	-3	83	24	142
14	Compass Gp	Leisure	103	-3	83	24	142
15	Boots	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
16	Vodafone	Electrical	103	-3	83	24	142
17	Nest	Drayp. Strs	103	-3	83	24	142
18	Takeda Chem	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
19	Woodside	Oil/Gas	103	-3	83	24	142
20	Cardo Eng	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
21	Gr Portland	Property	103	-3	83	24	142
22	Coors Vycell	Drayp. Strs	103	-3	83	24	142
23	Brooks Hill	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
24	BTR	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
25	Read Int'l	Newspaper/Pub	103	-3	83	24	142
26	Low & Borer	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
27	Lorrike	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
28	South West	Water	103	-3	83	24	142
29	Sott & New	Breweries	103	-3	83	24	142
30	Bk Of Ireland	Banks/Disc	103	-3	83	24	142
31	Sterling Pub	Newspaper/Pub	103	-3	83	24	142
32	Allian Irish	Banks/Disc	103	-3	83	24	142
33	Sainsbury J	Foods	103	-3	83	24	142
34	Usher Walker	Paper/Print	103	-3	83	24	142
35	Argyll	Foods	103	-3	83	24	142
36	Rockin Colm	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
37	Shun Water	Water	103	-3	83	24	142
38	Cadbury-Schw	Foods	103	-3	83	24	142
39	Hk Land	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
40	Dibons Gp	Drayp. Strs	103	-3	83	24	142
41	Inchape	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
42	Siebe	Industrial	103	-3	83	24	142
43	Code Wireless	Electrical	103	-3	83	24	142
44	ASDA Gp	Foods	103	-3	83	24	142
45	Times Newspapers Ltd.	Total	103	-3	83	24	142

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend							
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.							
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUNDAY Total	

Mrs Mary Sullivan, of Poplar, London, won the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	div	Net	Yld	P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP								
106	Abbey Ntl	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
107	Allied Irish	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
108	Anglo Ntl	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
109	Bankers Int'l	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
110	Barclays	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
111	Banks New	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
112	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
113	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
114	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
115	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
116	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
117	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
118	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
119	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
120	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
121	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
122	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
123	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
124	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
125	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
126	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
127	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
128	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
129	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
130	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
131	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
132	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
133	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
134	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
135	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
136	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
137	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
138	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
139	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
140	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
141	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
142	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
143	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
144	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
145	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
146	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
147	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
148	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
149	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
150	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
151	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
152	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
153	Banks Nth	202	-2	105.5	4.0	92		
154	Banks Nth	20						

Gone Savage is favourably drawn

NOW that the starting stalls will be on the far side of the sprint chute at Sandown this evening, Gone Savage has a good chance of repeating his recent victory over the same course and distance from his 12th birth.

He is my nap to win the LBC Newmarket 97.3fm Mike Dickin Handicap in the hands of Steve Cauthen.

A smart two-year-old two seasons ago when he was trained by Paul Cole, Gone Savage lost his way entirely last year and he was eventually sold for £5,500 guineas at Newmarket in the autumn.

Interestingly, he was bought back by one of his breeders, Rex Mead, and sent to Tony Balding who did so well for them with Gone Savage's elder three pals, Sister, Raves and Rhapsody.

Hopes that Gone Savage would repay their faith were partially fuelled when he was beaten two short heads at Salisbury in May, only to be dashed on his return to the Wiltshire track early the following month when he finished last.

That dismal performance has since been ascribed to a combination of back trouble

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

and the dreaded virus. Whatever the reason, the Gone Savage who made all the running to win the Victoria Amateur Turf Club Handicap at Sandown on Eclipse day was a totally different horse.

Relishing the softer conditions underfoot, he never looked like getting caught by Yet or Otherwise and with that confidence-restoring run behind him I now expect

Gone Savage to account for Olifantsfontein again, albeit on worse terms.

At their best, Masmun, Letsbehonestaboutit and Padlock Chalk would all go well but they could be fighting a losing battle with the disadvantage of their low draw.

The programme can begin with Iron Merchant putting his experience to good use in the EBF Superlano Maiden Stakes.

Although officially still a maiden this Reg. A. Achurh

trained two-year-old has in fact won at Windsor where he pipped the useful Port Lucaya.

only to be demoted for causing interference to the runner-up.

Iron Merchant can be the first leg of a double for Akehurst, to be completed by Lazy Rhythym winning the Harpers and Queen Handicap

A success for Ahbab in the Yellow Glen Handicap can also trigger a double for Willie Carson, who should win the Bon Chic Bon Genre Claiming Stakes on Regal Racer.

Mick Naughton, on his local Catterick track, looks all set to land another two-timer with Carlingford (3.30) and Rock Opera (4.30).

MANDARIN		THUNDERER	
2.30 Grouse-N-Heather.	2.30 Grouse-N-Heather.	3.00 Touch N' Glow.	3.00 Hi Nod.
3.30 Carlton.	3.30 Kristen.	4.00 Maritime Lady.	4.00 Dune River.
4.30 Rock Opera.	4.30 Rock Opera.	5.00 Green Flower.	5.00 Wand.
5.30 Breezy Day.	5.30 Never Late.		

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 5.00 Green Flower.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.30 A ONE APPRENTICE CLAIMING STAKES	
1 (2) 00-5000 MEDIA STAR 12 (CD,F) T Kersey T Kenny 7-0-2	M Hinde
2 (2) 00-5003 FULL BRIGHT 12 (CD,F) M Hinchcliffe 4-0-2	A Wimper
3 (2) 00-5004 MARITIME LAD 12 (CD,F) J Felling M Tompkins 3-0-2	S Mcleay
4 (1) 00-1051 STYLISH DUCH 12 (CD,F) C Melling 3-0-2	J Felling
5 (1) 00-0042 MYSTERY LAD 12 (CD,F) M Hinchcliffe 3-0-2	J Felling
BETTING: 1-2 Grouse-N-Heather, 4-0-1 Mandy, 2-3 Full Bright, 3-0-1 Mystery LAD, 2-0-1 Media Star, 2-0-1 Mandy.	

1991: MRS BARTON 3-0-2 H Ind 2-0-1 Mandy, 5-0-1.

FORM FOCUS

BE THE BEST 11th of 12 to finish in a handicap at Fodder (11, 12). FULL SHINY best Mandy 11th in a 7-race claimer, over course and distance (good), on yesterday's card. Grouse-N-Heather had 10th.

3.00 HUDDERSFIELD SELLING STAKES	
1 (2) 00-0043 DOC SPOT 11 (M) G Doherty 5-0-1	G Doherty
2 (2) 00-0012 FAIRFAX 12 (CD,F) S Smith 5-0-1	T Doherty
3 (2) H IND 13 (CD,F) M Corrigan 5-0-1	N Corrigan
4 (10) 00-0045 RAY 12 (CD,F) B Bunting 5-0-1	L Chesser
5 (8) 00-0052 KARICA 25 (M) F McShane 5-0-1	P Reddy
6 (7) 00-0053 STYLISH DUCH 12 (CD,F) M Corrigan 5-0-1	D Mcleay
7 (8) 00-0054 SEASIDE DELIGHT 13 (M) J Bunting 5-0-1	D Mcleay
8 (7) 00-0055 SEASIDE DELIGHT 13 (M) J Bunting 5-0-1	D Mcleay
9 (6) 00-0056 D SIRVICH 7 (M) A Hinchcliffe 5-0-1	J Marshall
10 (1) 00-0057 TOUCH N' GLOW 7 (M) C Melling 5-0-1	M Black
BETTING: 5-4 Touch N' Glow, 11-4 Seaside, 4-1 H Ind, 5-4 Kashes, 6-1 Ross of Mtn, 6-1 Doc Spot, 5-1 Hines, 12-1 others.	

FORM FOCUS

TOUCH N' GLOW neck 2nd of 13 to Boldfolds Bush, in a race for 7-year-olds, good to firm, with SEASIDE DELIGHT 13th. Previously had Winger Stinger 25th in a 7-race claimer, over course and distance (good), on yesterday's card. Hines (5), good to firm, 10th.

1991: KASHES 7-2, FAIRFAX 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1, Hines 5-0-1, SEASIDE DELIGHT 13-1, Hines 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1, Hines 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1.

FORM FOCUS

DOUG SPOT 24th 3rd of 7 in Westhampnett Ind 2, good to firm, with 10th (11, 12). FAIRFAX 12th in a 7-race claimer, over course and distance (good), on yesterday's card. H IND 2nd, 10th.

1991: FAIRFAX 12th, 7-2, H IND 5-0-1, Hines 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1.

FORM FOCUS

BE THE BEST 11th of 12 to finish in a handicap at Fodder (11, 12). FULL SHINY best Mandy 11th in a 7-race claimer, over course and distance (good), on yesterday's card. Grouse-N-Heather had 10th.

1991: MANDARIN 25th 3rd of 7 in a 7-race claimer, over course and distance (good), on yesterday's card. H IND 2nd, 10th.

FORM FOCUS

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1991: FAIRFAX 12th, 7-2, H IND 5-0-1, Hines 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1.

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1991: KASHES 7-2, FAIRFAX 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1.

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1991: FAIRFAX 12th, 7-2, H IND 5-0-1, Hines 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1.

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1991: FAIRFAX 12th, 7-2, H IND 5-0-1, Hines 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1, H IND 5-0-1.

Derbyshire in strong position after first day

Hampshire collapse cannot be blamed on the pitch

By RICHARD STREETON

PORTSMOUTH (first day of three; Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 16 runs ahead of Hampshire for Hampshire to be dismissed for 158 before tea was hardly the start they wanted as they set about their declared ambition to add the Britannic Assurance championship to their weekend triumph at Lord's. Hampshire, at the start, stood second in the table, 19 points behind Essex, as the championship resumed yesterday after a week's break.

The pitch was never sufficiently difficult to explain how Hampshire came to lose their last nine wickets for 60 in 28.5 overs, although Derbyshire, of

course, have more variety in a well equipped pace attack than most sides.

When Derbyshire batted, Brown and Morris quickly fell to catches at second slip, Morris providing Marshall with his 1,000th wicket for Hampshire in all games. Bowler, however, underlined there was nothing too spiteful about the pitch that determination and positive strokeplay could not counter.

Bowler, who is second to Gatting in the national averages, reached his fifth hundred of the season in the day's last over with 13 fours from 143 balls. O'Gorman supported him well, although when 11 might have been caught by Kiri Barnett, the injured Derbyshire captain, saying that Bishop this season has

bowled faster and more efficiently since his back operation during the winter than at any previous time.

Before this match Bishop had taken 24 wickets at 19.58 each in first-class games this year and has not had a single twinge in the back. The specialist advised Bishop to bowl with a slightly more open chested action to relieve the strain on his lower back and Barnett believes this has also helped him to bring greater variety to the ball that leaves the batsman late.

Malcolm tended to be more wayward in direction than Bishop but in mid-afternoon dispensed any question of a later Hampshire rally by taking three wickets in one over. He should also have had the wicket earlier of Gower who with 54 was the highest Hampshire scorer and who always made batting look simple. Gower was 32 when he was dropped by Bishop.

Hampshire's slump began when Gower was out at 98 in the last over before lunch. He played an indeterminate stroke against a near yorker from Mortensen and was leg before.

Otherwise Middleton, who stayed nearly 2½ hours in his most introspective mood, was the only batsman to linger long. Warner, that much underrated bowler, dismissed Middleton and Smith in successive overs. Middleton was caught behind by a ball that both lifted and left him and Smith edged an outswinger to second slip.

Malcolm bowled better in his later spells before his personal highlight came in what was the 57th over. Nicholas was undone by bounce and held at short-leg from the second ball; James hooked a catch to long leg from the fifth; before Parks was beaten by pace against the sixth.

Simon, supported him well with 69 before he fell to John Childs, the former Gloucestershire player's 47th wicket of the season against Worcester at Trent Bridge. The former Oxford University captain hit 14 fours in his 115, made in five hours. With Paul Johnson and Derek Randall providing livelier contributions, Nottinghams just managed the fourth bating point but finished well placed at 305 for six.

Simon Kellie and David Byas hit painstaking half-centuries as Yorkshire, with the injured Tendulkar, were restricted to 247 for five in 110 overs by Warwickshire on a slow pitch at Sheffield.

Allan Donald bowled 29 overs while taking three wickets. Warwickshire missed Tim Munton, resting a thigh strain, but he expects to play in the next match and to be available for the fourth Test.

Hodgson makes Gooch pay

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

CUMBRIA is hardly renowned for producing first-class cricketers but one of its sons, Dean Hodgson, the Gloucestershire opening batsman, played the innings of his life against Essex, the championship leaders, at Southend yesterday.

Finishing the day with only one bowling point, against the team with the fewest number of bating points in the competition, can hardly have been what Graham Gooch had in mind when he asked Gloucestershire to take first innings.

Hodgson, 25, relished the challenge, batman throughout the day for a career-best 145 as Gloucestershire scored 311 for three, taking maximum bating points for the first time this season.

Hodgson, who has blossomed into a more attacking player this season, has so far hit 19 fours. His captain, Tony

Wright, supported him well with 69 before he fell to John Childs, the former Gloucestershire player's 47th wicket of the season.

Of the candidates for the Headingley Test on view at Uxbridge, it was the recently deposed Allan Lamb who commanded attention. The Northamptonshire captain, who rapped his fourth, fifth and seventh deliveries from Charles Taylor to the boundary, made 63 from only 70 balls against Middlesex, hitting 14 fours and treating the fast bowlers with disdain, before he was caught at slip off Phil Tufnell.

Nigel Felton and Kevin Curran also scored half-centuries as Northamptonshire maintained a brisk scoring rate, despite the showers, to reach 316 for seven.

Mark Crawley, promoted to open for Nottinghamshire in

the absence of Chris Broad, responded with his third championship century of the season against Worcester at Trent Bridge. The former Oxford University captain hit 14 fours in his 115, made in five hours. With Paul Johnson and Derek Randall providing livelier contributions, Nottinghams just managed the fourth bating point but finished well placed at 305 for six.

Simon Kellie and David Byas hit painstaking half-centuries as Yorkshire, with the injured Tendulkar, were restricted to 247 for five in 110 overs by Warwickshire on a slow pitch at Sheffield.

Allan Donald bowled 29 overs while taking three wickets. Warwickshire missed Tim Munton, resting a thigh strain, but he expects to play in the next match and to be available for the fourth Test.

Versatile Watkinson returns best figures for three years

By JACK BAILEY

SOUTHPORT (first day of three; Leicestershire won toss): Lancashire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 132 runs behind Leicestershire.

THERE used to be a number of dual-purpose bowlers about — Ray Smith of Essex, Bob Appleyard of Yorkshire, and the great Garfield Sobers to name but three — but the county scene boasts only one at present. Lancashire's Mike Watkinson moves from medium-paced seamers with a grunt to a slower steeper brand of silent off spin, and yesterday he used both varieties to considerable effect, taking six for 82 as Leicestershire were bowled out for 257.

Given a pacy pitch and a fast, dry outfield, this was probably well below the aspirations harboured by Briers when he won the toss and elected to bat. Certainly, Fowler's superb innings of 62 for Lancashire will have done little to allay any misgivings.

Yet Watkinson obtained considerable purchase for his spin, bowling from the Harrod Road end on this delightful ground, and it may yet prove to have been a good toss to win if Leicestershire's spinners come up to scratch.

Watkinson took one wicket with his medium pace, that of the promising Smith, after Morrison had blasted out Briers and Whitaker with only 18 on the board. With figures of 7-3-13-1, he reverted to off spin and occupied the same end pretty much throughout the rest of Leicestershire's innings.

He did meet his match on a couple of occasions. Boon stayed afloat precariously in a sea of early disaster and emerged to play well for the day's highest score of 76, which included a six and 11 fours.

Then there was Wells, who batted with few inhibitions and a freedom denied his colleagues. Wells it was who made Watkinson look relatively expensive, twice losing the ball as he hit the off spinner over mid-wicket onto the near-by railway line. Since the ball was lost on both occasions, this was expensive indeed. Wells also treated Barnes in similar fashion and scored his half-century from only 66 balls.

Watkinson, who would be the first to acknowledge the help he received from Atherton, at slip and round the corner, and Close up in front of the wicket. They took two catches apiece off him. And in achieving his best analysis in three years, Watkinson took two return catches, the second, to get rid of Parsons, from the shrewd changes.

■ Sri Lanka is ready to act as joint host with India and Pakistan for the next World Cup tournament in 1995 or 1996. The Sri Lankan Cricket Board secretary, Neil Perera, has revealed that the offer was discussed at the International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting at Lord's last week. "We are capable of hosting at least five World Cup matches and India and Pakistan have agreed to this idea if they are given the opportunity to host the tournament once again," Perera said.

India and Pakistan jointly organised the tournament in 1987. In 1992 it moved to Australia and New Zealand. The ICC has said a decision on the host of the next World Cup will be taken by next January. Twelve teams will take part next time, compared with nine at the last World Cup.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 1992

New women's pair may break Britain's duck

By MIKE ROSEWELL

BRITAIN has never won an Olympic medal in a women's rowing event but Miriam Batten made it clear yesterday that she has no liking for fourth place. Batten, together with 45 other male and female rowers, left Heathrow yesterday for heat acclimatisation in Varese, north Italy, before moving on to the Olympics on July 22.

Batten, petite by rowing standards and an "ardent member of Britain's café society", made history last year when she and Fiona Freckleton, a school mistress at Westminster, won Britain's first women's world rowing medal, a bronze in the coxed pairs in Vienna.

The progress of the pair towards Barcelona stuttered through the winter when Freckleton suffered glandular fever and, after being forced to withdraw halfway through the Lucerne Regatta in June when she was again below

par, a decision was taken to move Jo Turvey into the top pair with Batten.

Turvey, the least experienced of the British women's squad in Vienna and taller and heavier than Batten, was "surprised but excited" but Batten considers that the combination is "coming together very well and is good, long and strong".

Brian Armstrong, the international rowing manager, said yesterday that "the women's team, the largest and strongest that Britain has produced, could win two or three medals if it all goes right". Batten has no illusions about the opposition in her event. "The Canadians are top of her list. We don't fear them, we look forward to racing them," she said, adding that the Germans, the French and the Americans have "an awful lot to prove".

All Gill and Annabel Eyres, two Oxford University products

and Britain's leggy double scull, finished sixth in Vienna last summer and third in Lucerne behind two German crews. Ron Needs, their experienced coach, considers them to be going well although high winds at their recent altitude camp in Switzerland meant "they were frustrated by the difficulty of getting enough water work".

The British eight, with Freckleton at No. 3 and the double world lightweight silver medal winner, Kate Brownlow at stroke, suffered illness as well as the elements in Switzerland. Brownlow, always the ebullient spokeswoman, has made a remarkable recovery to competitive rowing following a back operation last January. Her experience is a vital ingredient in the leadership of a crew that has been strengthened since finishing fourth in Lucerne just one length behind the United States.



A medal in mind: Batten, left, and Turvey, Britain's new partnership, look forward to the women's coxed pairs at the Olympic Games

GOLF: UNFULFILLED SPANIARD APPROACHES THE OPEN LOOKING TO PROVE HIMSELF ON A MAJOR STAGE

Olazábal out to end the doubts

By MIKE WEBB

TOM Kite's victory in the United States Open last month was a significant one for José-Maria Olazábal. No, it is not as silly as it sounds; it means, you see, that the young Spaniard was left unchallenged as the best player in the world not to have won one of golf's four major championships.

It is a title he does not want; at the still comparatively tender age of 26 he would sooner be looked upon for what he has achieved, rather than what he has not.

Indeed, if his career were to be cut off overnight, it would still have been hugely successful. Ranked third in the world, winner of 16 professional titles

on three of the five continents, and almost £5 million banked since he first hit a ball for money. Quite a c.v., that.

And yet, and yet... Whether he likes it or not, the fact remains that genius that he is, he has still to put the notch on his belt that will finally silence the knockers that you will find hiding away in dark and dusty corners in every sport, from where they can be heard but rarely seen.

From the moment he burst onto the professional scene by winning the European Tour qualifying school in 1985, having won just about every honour in the amateur game that he could by the age of 19, it became obvious that we were witnessing a special talent; the best player to come out of

Spain since Severiano Ballesteros a decade before.

And it was with Ballesteros that comparisons were inevitably made. Both were Basques, both were imbued with the dark good looks and the mercurial intensity of their nation within a nation. Both were men apart. One day, said the sages, the youngster from Fuenterrabia in the foothills of the Pyrenees would surely assume the mantle that had been worn for so long by his distinguished compatriot.

Today, almost seven years on, the comparisons are still being made, and no matter what Mr Sony and his rankings say, the world and his wife still regard Seve as the man.

There is an unspoken rival-

ry, the sort of rivalry that can only be engendered between friends. Together, they form the most potent partnership in the history of the Ryder Cup. Apart, they refuse to admit to the competition between them. Secretly they know it is there; get either talking about the other and it becomes palpable.

To most of his peers, Olazábal's record in the last season and a bit would be enviable. Four titles in Europe, one in the United States. Good enough for any man, you might have thought.

But Olazábal is not just any man, and he knows for sure that it has been an unfulfilled 15 months. The big one still has not happened for him, and it all dates back to a warm

Sunday afternoon in April 1991, in Augusta, Georgia. It was on that day that Olazábal came within one shot of forcing a play-off in the Masters that was eventually won by Ian Woosnam. The shot was his drive on the 72nd hole. It found a fairway trap, and the best chance of his career of landing the big one was buried in the sand along with his ball. He has not threatened in a major since.

He has been quiet in recent weeks, citing fatigue and overwork as the reasons for his brief sabbatical. Who knows if the rest has done him good?

We shall soon find out, but one thing is certain — the time is right for José-Maria Olazábal, and the time could just be the coming four days.

Following Faldo fashion

By MITCHELL PLATT

COLIN Montgomerie yesterday revealed that he is ready to dedicate himself to the game in a similar manner to Nick Faldo in his attempt to become the best golfer in the world.

Montgomerie partnered

Faldo in a practice round for the Open at Muirfield. He said: "I'm prepared to do it the Faldo way, even if it does mean losing a few friends. If I can follow his example, it will be worthwhile because the rewards are so high."

"In many respects we are very similar and we are becoming good friends. But my will to win is still stronger than my admiration for him. The point with Nick is that he is the one guy I want to beat the most. You know if you do that, you'll be there or thereabouts."

Montgomerie, whose odds to win the Open have been cut from 25-1 to 20-1 by

Ladbrokes, added: "Nick is playing extremely well. He must be because David Leadbetter, his coach, walked off after nine holes and was not satisfied with the way Nick was hitting the ball."

"I'm also happy with my game. I plan to work only on my chipping and putting on Wednesday. I hope it blows because I hit the ball lower than most and I'm not worried about how difficult the conditions get."

He tied thirteenth.

Baker-Finch is 31, a some- tanned 6ft 4in and 13½ stone, at his physical peak apart from the need to wear spectacles for distance. His wife Jennie is the daughter of a teaching professional which has no doubt helped to create a well-knit golfing family.

Baker-Finch is many re-

moves from the Australian stereotype so falsely parodied abroad. He is articulate, well spoken and well read, mostly because of his zest for self-improvement. He left school at 14.

He does, however, share the

WEATHER

TODAY: Rain early, heavy and persistent at times, becoming drier during the afternoon. Wind south or southwesterly becoming southwesterly.

TOMORROW: Rain spreading from the west during the afternoon and evening. Wind moderate to fresh southwesterly.

FRIDAY: Rain overnight, becoming drier later. Wind moderate to fresh.

Ireland need draw to secure title

By DAVID RHYS JONES

IRELAND, who beat Wales on Monday, surprised England at Bournemouth yesterday and emerged as favourites to win the women's home international series for the first time in the 45-year history of the Irish Women's

Bowling Association.

Scotland, the holders, after

their confident first-day victory

over England, fell from grace,

and were despatched by Wales, who played with far more spirit than they had against the Irish.

Margaret Johnston and

Philis Nolan, who combined

their talents to win the world

pairs title at Ayr last month,

went their separate ways and

skipped their Irish rinks to big

wins over the English rinks

skipped by Norma Shaw and

Mavis Steele.

Maureen Mallon, another

FOOTBALL

Ted Fenton dies

TED Fenton, who organised

the youth policy at West Ham

United that produced the

England World Cup trio.

By Moore, Geoff Hurst and

Martin Peters, has died from

injuries sustained in a car

crash aged 77.

Fenton, who later played

150 games for the club, be-

came player-manager of Col-

chester United in the

Southern League after serv-

ing as company sergeant major

in the second world war.

As West Ham's manager,

he led the club to the first

division for the first time and

later managed Southend Uni-

HOCKEY

Wales hold off late surge

WALES successfully held off a late surge by the New Zealand

Olympic team to draw 1-1 at

Bisham Abbey yesterday (Sydney Friskin writes). Seizing the initiative, Wales went ahead in the eighth minute, with Tony Colclough breaking through

from a free hit to score.

New Zealand took control at

the start of the second half and

SPORT IN BRIEF

Life bans on two boxers

The Welsh Amateur Boxing

Association has imposed life

bans on Neil Swain, flyweight

champion, and Lee Taylor, a

welterweight, following inci-

dents at an hotel during a tour

in Bavaria. Chris Beck, a light-

heavyweight who has since

turned professional, was

banned for five years.

Damage was allegedly done

to property and bills unpaid.

Swain said he was depressed

over the theft from him of £90.

Thrower out

Athletics: Kam Keshmiri, of

the United States, a leading

discus thrower with the year's

best 70.84 metres, has been

suspended after failing a

drugs test. He won the US

Olympics trial on June 22 but

was later told a random test

had shown positive.

Exit Becker

Tennis: Boris Becker's prepa-

rations for the Barcelona

Olympics suffered a setback

yesterday when he was beaten

in the Stuttgart Open clay

court tournament by Olivier

Delaire, of France, 6-3, 6-4 in his opening match.

YACHTING

ROYAL COURT YACHT CLUB: Ford week (all results provisional): Class 1: R. G. Thompson (GBR), 328.50s; Class 2: P. E. Denyer (GBR), 328.21s.

EASTBOURNE: Woolwich Open tournament: Singlehanded: 1. C. H. Thompson (GBR), 10:20.20s; 2. I. Edwards (GBR), 10:21.00s; 3. A. Johnson (GBR), 10:22.44s; 4. J. Edwards (GBR), 10:23.00s; 5. D. C. Thompson (GBR), 10:23.20s; 6. J. Edwards (GBR), 10:23.40s; 7. A. Johnson (GBR), 10:23.60s; 8. J. Edwards (GBR), 10:23.80s; 9. C. H. Thompson (GBR), 10:24.00s; 10. D. C. Thompson (GBR), 10:24.20s; 11. A. Johnson (GBR), 10:24.40s; 12. J. Edwards (GBR), 10:24.60s; 13. C. H. Thompson (GBR), 10:24.80s; 14. D. C. Thompson (GBR), 10:25.00s; 15. A. Johnson (GBR), 10:25.20s; 16. J. Edwards (GBR), 10:25.40s; 17. C. H. Thompson (GBR), 10:25.60s; 18. D. C. Thompson (GBR), 10:25.80s; 19. A. Johnson (GBR), 10:26.00s; 20. J. Edwards (GBR), 10:26.20s; 21. C. H. Thompson (GBR), 10:26.40s; 22. D. C. Thompson (GBR), 10:26.60s; 23. A. Johnson (GBR), 10:26.80s; 24. J. Edwards (GBR), 10:27.00s; 25. C. H. Thompson (GBR), 10:27.20s; 26. D. C. Thompson (GBR), 10:27.40s; 27. A. Johnson (GBR), 10:27.60s; 28. J. Edwards (GBR),

United States offers a strong and varied challenge for the Open Championship

Confident Kite can conquer again

By MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

TOM Kite has history to support his case that he can capture the Open Championship, which starts at Muirfield tomorrow, only 28 days after winning the United States Open.

The Texan can point to Bobby Jones (1926 and 1930), Gene Sarazen (1932), Ben Hogan (1953), Lee Trevino (1971) and Tom Watson (1982) as the only golfers to have won the two Open titles in the same year. He can stress, too, they were all Americans.

"I would like to be the next one," he said. "I certainly hope I don't have to wait another 21 years before I win a major and I suspect it has to be a little easier for me now."

"The pressure of winning a first major is off; it is now just a question of winning two. I have a tremendous desire to keep competing and I have nothing to prove. I have a nice record but I would like to improve on it if I can."

Kite is fiercely patriotic: there is nothing Hollywood about him. He is a proud man, proud of Uncle Sam and proud of what took place at Pebble Beach last month. It took him 21 years as a professional to come of age by winning his first major championship but, with it, he continued an exciting golfing renaissance in the United States.

John Daly (US PGA championship), Fred Couples (Masters) and Kite (US Open) hold three of the major championships. If an American can loosen the grip of Ian Baker-Finch, an Australian, on the Open, they will have hold of all four for the first time since the spring on 1984. However, Mark Calcavecchia is the only American to have won the Open since Watson in 1983.

Even so, the American challenge has been galvanised by Kite's win. His success at the age of 42 has encouraged the likes of Raymond Floyd, Hale Irwin, Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, Larry Wadkins and Watson to fancy their chances at 40-plus rather than simply fantasise.

Kite's appetite for winning majors has been sharpened, not satisfied by his US Open win. He is the first to admit that, while his success at Pebble Beach might not have been aesthetically the traditional Kite manner.

"We have always been survivors," he said. "My grandfather moved to Texas with



Driving ambition: Kite, winner of the US Open, practises at Muirfield yesterday in preparation for his tilt at the Open Championship title



THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

literally nothing to his name and earned during the Depression.

"If you could look into a guy's heart and gut, you could tell who'd win out here."

Kite has fought adversity since his years in Austin, Texas, where he practised alongside Ben Crenshaw. A *Sports Illustrated* article suggested that when they were at the University of Texas, Crenshaw was the glamorous one, chased by the girls, whereas Kite wore glasses, had pink skin and kinky hair.

Kite is a private man. "I'm trying to keep Tom Kite, and his family life, as similar as it was," he said. "It is difficult. I will need to talk to my children, explain that there will be more demands on my time. I will tell them that if it gets out of control, if they feel they are being cheated, then they must come to me."

Floyd, at the age of 49, still makes the game look like a stroll in the park. He won the Doral Open on the United States Tour in March; he partnered Fred Couples to whip Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam 5 and 3 in the Ryder Cup last September; and, in 1986, he became the oldest man to win the US Open, at 43.

If Floyd wins the Open, he will be the oldest man to do so — Old Tom Morris was 46 when he triumphed in 1867 — and only the fifth man to win all four majors. "I've thought about that," he said. "I've thought about that a lot."

Watson would equal Harry Vardon's record of six Open Championship triumphs if he was successful. Yet he is well aware that, despite Kite's win, a new guard has arrived to take American golf towards the 21st Century. Mark Calcavecchia, John Cook, Fred Couples, John Daly, Davis Love III, Corey Pavin, Jeff Sluman and Payne Stewart belong in that company.

Azinger lost the Open at Muirfield in 1987 when he dropped a shot at each of the last two holes. "When I left here, I was heartbroken," he said. "At the time, I thought it might have been a once in a lifetime thing so I was devastated."

"Then I tried to use my performance as a measuring stick to what I could do. I realised I could stick up against the best players in the world so, even though it hurt, it gave me confidence."

He cannot camouflage his craving to win this time but, if he fails, then Azinger, aged 32, can take comfort in the knowledge that age would appear to be no barrier in golf — Kite demonstrated last month.

First-day draw, page 27
Champion's year, page 27

Muirfield is shedding its aloof reputation

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

about laughing and a myth was shattered.

For generations the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, founded in 1744, has been regarded by outsiders as aloof and more than a little eccentric. Insiders would not disagree with that. When it comes to fixing up matches for odd members, the cry invariably goes up: "They're all odd."

It hosted championships but as a private club paid little attention to its public face. Its secretaries raised arrogant high-handedness to an art form and the stories are legion.

Women are allowed to play the course [with a handicap of 24 or less] and a man in tow, but Open Championships attract an irritating mass of them, including those horrors known as female journalists. Paddy Hamner, the last secretary but one, had several run-ins with one woman in particular. As she passed the clubhouse with her husband, also a journalist but a man and a former Scottish rugby international, Hamner, who was renowned for his irascibility, said: "There goes Norman Mair and his bad-tempered little wife."

This faint heart quails at the thought of what he would make of the fact that women members of the Association of Golf Writers (AGW) are allowed in the locker-room this year.

Your not-so-intrepid correspondent and a colleague of much more pioneering spirit put this edict to the test, accompanied by the reassuringly large and official figure of Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal and Ancient, and successfully breached the hallowed area. All we saw were two slightly bemused locker-room attendants but history, of a sort, had been made.

Hamner's successor, less than affectionately known as Kojo after the commandant of the prison camp in Tema, might never have allowed it but he has more weighty matters on his mind this week. No longer secretary but still a member, he has been put in charge of the rubbish.

Unfortunately for the myth-makers, litter control is not how the incumbent, Payne Stewart's new buddy, regards the public element of his job. In Group Captain John Prudeaux — he retains the title only because the club wanted him to — the Honourable Company has found the ideal front-man. He is charming, delightful and totally disarming, and when he insists it is the friendliest club imaginable you find yourself believing him.

Muirfield-baiting may never be the same again.

Ideal host: Prudeaux gives the club a friendlier image

Botham greets triumph with much decorum

By PETER BALL

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of three) **Pakistan** won toss: **Durham**, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 252 behind the **Pakistanis**

THE crowd — and the tabloid press — flocked to Chester-le-Street expecting confrontation to mark the first first-class match in the town. Instead, under the shadow of the church overlooking the pocket-sized ground in the back streets, peace broke out.

After all the head shaking and warnings as to future conduct of the past week, the Pakistanis were on their best behaviour yesterday, and so, apart from a few dismayed gestures to his own fielders, was Ian Botham. With such volatile characters in opposition, the Pakistani pursuit of their eleventh of the 12 wins necessary to claim Testley's £50,000 bonus could have proved incendiary.

But although Botham had the satisfaction of seeing two personal scores, claiming the wickets of his old adversaries, Aamer Sohail and Javed Miandad, even those triumphs were accepted with impeccable decorum. The batsmen left without waiting for the umpire's decision; it was that sort of day.

But if their behaviour was impeccable, the Pakistanis may be less impressed by the performances. In front of an all-ticket 5,000 crowd, the touring team began as if out to equal the 1948 Australians' 721 in a day against Essex, or at least Sohail did.

The opener was expansive from the start, hitting two fours in both the first two overs and racing 41 out of 47 in the first eight. Raja's attempts to keep in step were less successful and, after surviving a half-chance to slip and a more genuine one to square leg, he was caught by Hughes, leaping at mid-off.

Sohail moved on to his 50+ off 50 balls, with nine fours, most struck with a flourish, but the arrival of Botham into the attack induced a rush of blood. A kinder critic described Sohail's shot, as he charged Botham, as "a pull". On the village green, or in a Durham senior league match on the Ropery Lane ground, it would be more accurately described as a "cowhand".

After that success, Botham found wicket-hunting hard to come by. The batsmen had been less successful, but the wicket-keepers had not. The first four were all out, but the fifth, Javed Miandad, was not out. Botham had to go to the 10th ball to get him, and he was caught by Hughes, leaping at mid-off.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-93, 2-93, 3-155, 4-181, 5-204, 6-273, 7-273, 8-273, 9-273, 10-273, 11-273, 12-273, 13-273, 14-273, 15-273, 16-273, 17-273, 18-273, 19-273, 20-273, 21-273, 22-273, 23-273, 24-273, 25-273, 26-273, 27-273, 28-273, 29-273, 30-273, 31-273, 32-273, 33-273, 34-273, 35-273, 36-273, 37-273, 38-273, 39-273, 40-273, 41-273, 42-273, 43-273, 44-273, 45-273, 46-273, 47-273, 48-273, 49-273, 50-273, 51-273, 52-273, 53-273, 54-273, 55-273, 56-273, 57-273, 58-273, 59-273, 60-273, 61-273, 62-273, 63-273, 64-273, 65-273, 66-273, 67-273, 68-273, 69-273, 70-273, 71-273, 72-273, 73-273, 74-273, 75-273, 76-273, 77-273, 78-273, 79-273, 80-273, 81-273, 82-273, 83-273, 84-273, 85-273, 86-273, 87-273, 88-273, 89-273, 90-273, 91-273, 92-273, 93-273, 94-273, 95-273, 96-273, 97-273, 98-273, 99-273, 100-273, 101-273, 102-273, 103-273, 104-273, 105-273, 106-273, 107-273, 108-273, 109-273, 110-273, 111-273, 112-273, 113-273, 114-273, 115-273, 116-273, 117-273, 118-273, 119-273, 120-273, 121-273, 122-273, 123-273, 124-273, 125-273, 126-273, 127-273, 128-273, 129-273, 130-273, 131-273, 132-273, 133-273, 134-273, 135-273, 136-273, 137-273, 138-273, 139-273, 140-273, 141-273, 142-273, 143-273, 144-273, 145-273, 146-273, 147-273, 148-273, 149-273, 150-273, 151-273, 152-273, 153-273, 154-273, 155-273, 156-273, 157-273, 158-273, 159-273, 160-273, 161-273, 162-273, 163-273, 164-273, 165-273, 166-273, 167-273, 168-273, 169-273, 170-273, 171-273, 172-273, 173-273, 174-273, 175-273, 176-273, 177-273, 178-273, 179-273, 180-273, 181-273, 182-273, 183-273, 184-273, 185-273, 186-273, 187-273, 188-273, 189-273, 190-273, 191-273, 192-273, 193-273, 194-273, 195-273, 196-273, 197-273, 198-273, 199-273, 200-273, 201-273, 202-273, 203-273, 204-273, 205-273, 206-273, 207-273, 208-273, 209-273, 210-273, 211-273, 212-273, 213-273, 214-273, 215-273, 216-273, 217-273, 218-273, 219-273, 220-273, 221-273, 222-273, 223-273, 224-273, 225-273, 226-273, 227-273, 228-273, 229-273, 230-273, 231-273, 232-273, 233-273, 234-273, 235-273, 236-273, 237-273, 238-273, 239-273, 240-273, 241-273, 242-273, 243-273, 244-273, 245-273, 246-273, 247-273, 248-273, 249-273, 250-273, 251-273, 252-273, 253-273, 254-273, 255-273, 256-273, 257-273, 258-273, 259-273, 260-273, 261-273, 262-273, 263-273, 264-273, 265-273, 266-273, 267-273, 268-273, 269-273, 270-273, 271-273, 272-273, 273-273, 274-273, 275-273, 276-273, 277-273, 278-273, 279-273, 280-273, 281-273, 282-273, 283-273, 284-273, 285-273, 286-273, 287-273, 288-273, 289-273, 290-273, 291-273, 292-273, 293-273, 294-273, 295-273, 296-273, 297-273, 298-273, 299-273, 300-273, 301-273, 302-273, 303-273, 304-273, 305-273, 306-273, 307-273, 308-273, 309-273, 310-273, 311-273, 312-273, 313-273, 314-273, 315-273, 316-273, 317-273, 318-273, 319-273, 320-273, 321-273, 322-273, 323-273, 324-273, 325-273, 326-273, 327-273, 328-273, 329-273, 330-273, 331-273, 332-273, 333-273, 334-273, 335-273, 336-273, 337-273, 338-273, 339-273, 340-273, 341-273, 342-273, 343-273, 344-273, 345-273, 346-273, 347-273, 348-273, 349-273, 350-273, 351-273, 352-273, 353-273, 354-273, 355-273, 356-273, 357-273, 358-273, 359-273, 360-273, 361-273, 362-273, 363-273, 364-273, 365-273, 366-273, 367-273, 368-273, 369-273, 370-273, 371-273, 372-273, 373-273, 374-273, 375-273, 376-273, 377-273, 378-273, 379-273, 380-273, 381-273, 382-273, 383-273, 384-273, 385-273, 386-273, 387-273, 388-273, 389-273, 390-273, 391-273, 392-273, 393-273, 394-273, 395-273, 396-273, 397-273, 398-273, 399-273, 400-273, 401-273, 402-273, 403-273, 404-273, 405-273, 406-273, 407-273, 408-273, 409-273, 410-273



HOMES p7
Why do so few
women run
estate
agencies?



LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY JULY 15 1992



WOMEN p5
Equality to
kill? The
wartime
dilemma

When history passed the ink-blot test

Waterman, Parker, Biro — all names that have written themselves into history. Stephen Bayley traces the development of the pen from a simple writing tool to a masterpiece of design

When a man first picked up a burnt stick and wrote on the wall of his cave he made one of the small yet significant achievements of which our material civilisation is comprised — and the pen he had invented is one of its great symbols.

Historically, ink storage was based on Egyptian and Roman designs, with interlocking goose quills inside a metal body, creating a filling chamber. Delivery was through nibs of goose, raven or swan quills or, occasionally gold, but both feather and metal lacked endurance.

Remedies were sought with precious stones, but these were too hard. (Those sceptical about the advantages of modern civilization may reflect on the disagreeable experience of writing with a sapphire-tipped nib on coarse, porous paper, with an ink which refused to dry.) Then, in 1841, an Englishman called Maled developed an osmium-iridium tip soldered to a gold nib. This was the first important breakthrough in fountain pen design.

Most people asked to name the great pen manufacturers would say Waterman, Parker and Bic, but increasingly they would say Mont Blanc and Pentel, too. It is Waterman and Parker that constitute the "grandes marques" of pens: here were companies which emerged in the American 19th century, contemporaries of Sears Roebuck, the railroads and the telegraph, when the search for efficiency was a romantic national priority. Reliable pens were a necessary part of streamlined offices: every clerk had to have one.

Lewis E Waterman's great achievements were to be confident enough to guarantee his pens, and to be bold enough to acquire the habit of sitting in a New York shop window demonstrating his products to a sceptical public. It is remarkable that it took until the 1980s (when the telephone, typewriter and the automobile had already been defined) for the first reliable, modern fountain pen, Waterman's "Ideal", to appear in American markets.

George S Parker followed Waterman into business, manufacturing fountain pens in Janesville, Wisconsin, but it was only in 1921 when the "Duofold" was introduced with a distinctive bright red barrel and cap that Parker's newly conspicuous product stole any commercial advantage. In 1937 the Parker name became synonymous with pens when the Parker 51 was introduced. Designed by Kenneth Parker, Ivan D Teft, Martin Baker and Joseph Plant to commemorate the company's 51st birthday, the 51 is one of a handful of designs which define the mid century.

Parker made some half-hearted ergonomic claims for the design.

but the truth of the 51 is that it was a small masterpiece of streamlined modern styling. So completely did it summarise the technical and aesthetic achievements of industrial design that it was celebrated in the greatest 20th century art education book, the Bauhaus master Laszlo Moholy-Nagy's *Vision in Motion* (1947). This has sometimes led to the fallacious assumption that Moholy-Nagy was involved with the design. He was not, but he would have been proud to be.

Parker was soon producing a million 51s a year, yet it was always an exclusive product. The real proletarianisation of the pen occurred from two technical developments — one in South America, the other in Japan — which sidelined the traditional fountain pen and turned them into antiques. Laszlo Biro is one of those rare geniuses — like William Henry Hoover and Louis Chevrolet — whose surname became a generic for the popular product they developed. Biro left Hungary for Argentina, where in 1943 he patented a ballpoint pen with quick-drying ink which did not blot.

In 1945 the Biro was being manufactured by the Esterpen Company of Buenos Aires and the Miles-Martin Pen Company in London. Biro's design was made disposable by Marcel Bich, whose original Biro-Bic Company introduced the Bic Crystal to Britain from France in 1958. "Un b'c" is as French for "ballpoint pen" as "Biro" is in England.

In 1946, at the same time Soichiro Honda was strapping small engines onto bike frames and Akio Morita of TDK was wondering what good purpose he could find for a tape-recorder, Yokio Horie founded Pentel, a name, like Morita's Sony which used nicely corrupted English, in this case a combination of "pen" and "pasta".

For a long time Pentel produced the sort of merchandise which made Made in Japan sound like me-too mediocrity until, in 1960, the first Pentel pen marker appeared. This was the original tip, a clever advance on traditional bamboo-based techniques, which used osmotic action to feed ink from a dense tampon to a finer nib.

In 1963 came the Pentel sign pen, where chiseled fibre replaced traditional bamboo, giving a rapid flow of ink at any angle, and suddenly signwriting became clean and reliable. The achievement reflected Waterman's, but Pentel's great change came in 1970 with the introduction of the R50 ball Pentel, the green pen with a characteristic design around the end cap, which has now largely

replaced the biro as the universal global writing instrument. Using soluble, fade resistant ink, the cushioned alloy ballpoint offers an almost calligraphic variation in line width, depending on the pressure exerted.

Pentel's publicity says that since 1970 enough R50s have been made to allow five circumnavigations of the globe, but the real point about Pentel's success was indicated by the award in 1976 of the Deming Prize for "total quality control".

The very success of Pentel produced a reaction, since the problem with global products is that people will want something different. The capricious consumer, his basic handwriting needs satisfied, began to acquire a taste for exclusive fountain pens.

It was actually Parker who took the first step away from pens as commodities. In 1954

the company introduced its biro, having waited nearly ten years for ballpoint technology to demonstrate its reliability.

The Parker ballpoint used a retractable ballpoint, with a nylon ratchet that ingeniously turned the "nib" with every retraction. This obviated the asymmetric wear which had bedevilled cheap biros.

Part of the appeal of the Parker 51 was that it had been the first thin pen.

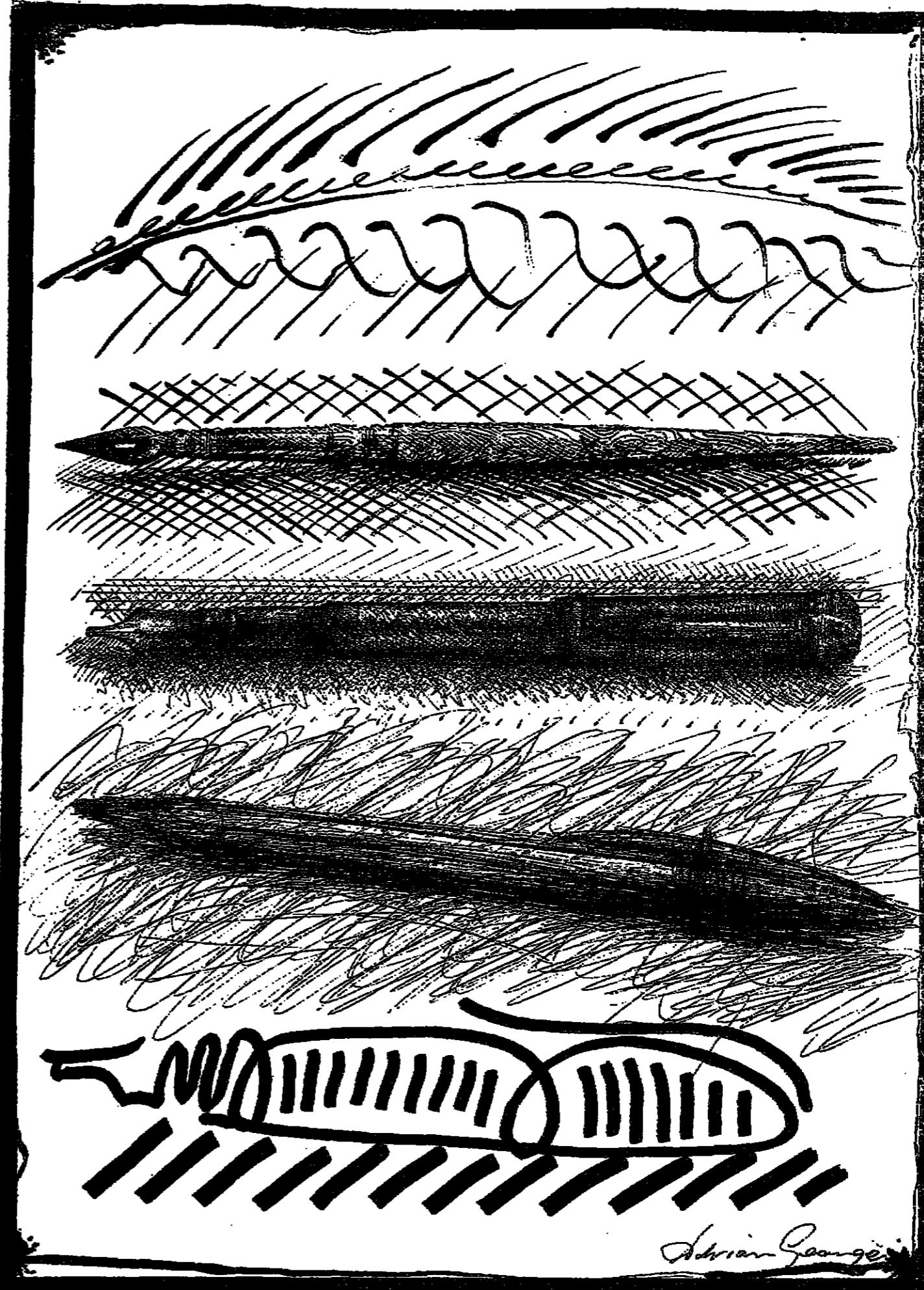
Some of the appeal of the present celebrity pen, the Mont Blanc Meisterstück, is that it is very thick.

It is not surprising that the fat, expensive and exclusive pen became as much a token of the 1980s

as the neat, cheap and disposable Pentel, yet it is significant, beyond mere consumer excess, that one offered flawless performance cheaply, the other made demands on its owners and was extremely pricey. Mont Blanc began business life in 1908 as the Simplo Filler Pen Company in Hamburg. The top model was the Mont Blanc (because it was the highest peak in Europe), the familiar white snowflake appearing on the end cap in 1913.

The original Mont Blanc was a copy of a Parker Duofold, but by 1934 Mont Blanc had introduced the screwthread piston filter,

changed the company name to reflect its top product and added "4810" (the height of Mont Blanc



in metres) to its nibs, where it remains today.

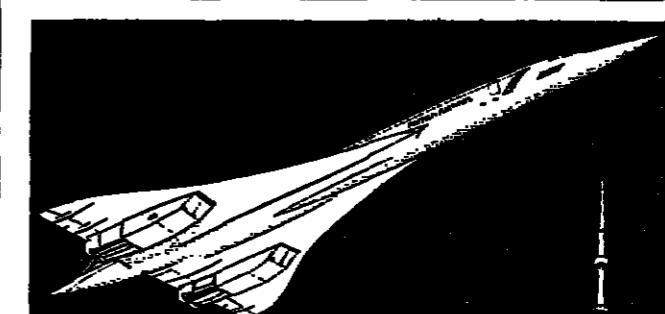
It was from stylus, the Latin pen, that we derive our own word style. It is, perhaps, not surprising that the misleadingly straightforward device we use to intermediate between a thought in the head and a word on the page is one that carries a great deal of meaning. Handwriting, according to Goethe, is something which "magically calls a person to mind". Consumers realise this and the accumulating success of luxury pens from Parker, Waterman and Mont Blanc threatens some of the assumptions about mass-markets.

More than £200 is a lot to pay for a pen, when a functionally similar device can be bought for 50p, but

in troubled times more than £200 is not a lot to pay for something which adds a little magic even to signing the community charge cheque. In the future the restoration of such simple but fundamental pleasures will play an increasing role in commerce and manufacturing. The pen, once again, is a paradigm of industrial culture. It is not only mightier than the sword, it has replaced it as an item of day-to-day personal heraldry.

TOMORROW

Film: Catherine Denueve in a sparkling new *Belle de Jour*



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A cat's-eye view of human behaviour

When night falls and she doesn't come in for her tea, I usually start to worry. So I go outside and call for her (the old story), and then feel helpless when she still doesn't come. I tell myself that probably she is "eating out tonight" — because I know how easily she insinuates herself into other houses, and then cadges a meal by acting weak and pathetic. At the end of such an evening, she will come home to me in a tell-tale overexcited state, not really interested in food.

Still, I will say this for her: she always makes sure I'm all right. Out comes the tin-opener, and there's half a tin of Felix, a handful of Kitty Crunch for my little fangs to work on, even a tub of Sheba if she's been drinking. But it's not the food I am worried about. It's just that I am only properly happy when I know she is safe indoors, curled up asleep on that warm hairy rug of hers, her ears flicking contentedly as she dreams of Jeff Bridges.

She was 31 when I got her. Mandy and with a bit of a whiff, but also affectionate. She took time to settle down, and it was clear she had been badly treated in the past, because her mood swings were abrupt and inscrutable — one minute running about like a maniac

the next flaked out in weird angular poses in random places on the carpet. But gradually I earned her trust (and she learned some basic grooming), and now she has this peculiar habit of rubbing her face against my leg, which is quite pleasant actually, though a bit of a nuisance when you are trying to walk downstairs.

To friends who haven't got one, I always say, "Get one". I mean it, no hesitation. Yes, they are selfish. Yes, they moult. Yes, they yowl a bit in the night-time and they make it difficult for you to go on holiday. But they make it up to you in so many ways. For one thing, they can sometimes be persuaded to pose with ribbons around their necks. And for another, they are absolutely fascinating to watch. For example, mine spends four hours after just staring at a big box in the corner of the living-room, not moving an inch, but silently grinding her teeth and tensing her muscles as if to pounce. I have said it before and I'll say it again: I am convinced they can see things we can't see.

For about three years, actually, I had a pair — a male as well as a female — but the male disappeared one day last summer, as abruptly as he arrived, and I never found out what became of him. Run over, possibly. Or locked in a garage by

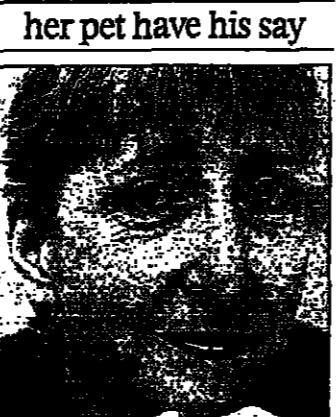
resent it. Certainly she got a bit thin and straggly when he first disappeared, and clawed at the windows rather pathetically. But now she is back to sleeping 20 hours a day, and quite often buries her face in a bowl of food, so I think she has probably fallen on her feet.

I have had her for six years, and she still surprises me. Her only unacceptable habit is that sometimes during the day she will suddenly drop whatever she is doing, dash for the door and disappear; and then an hour later return with all sorts of inedible rubbish — vegetables, pasta, washing powder — which she dumps on the doormat, looking pleased with herself. It happens about once a week.

Evidently this is standard behaviour, especially from childhood females, and I ought to respond magnanimously to these offerings ("Muesli, how lovely") rather than offend her. But it is so clearly a throwback to some primitive hunting-and-gathering instinct that it unsettles me completely. I just don't like to face up to the fact that, you know, deep down, she's an animal.

"Look what I got," she trills, and starts spreading the stuff on the floor. "Oh yuk," I say. "Why ever did you bring home yoghurt?" And I give her one of my looks. She is happy, lying here chest up, eyes a-squint, for she is cocooned in the pitiable belief that she is practising cat psychology, when in fact cat psychology is practising on me.

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CARL FLEISCH COMPETITION: Spread over two hours of three solos on piano, part of the programme of the Carl Fleisch International Violin Competition offers talent spotting a chance to hear each of the 16 contestants play solo. The soloists are those by Barry Gold, Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorak, Mendelssohn, Sibelius, Tchaikovsky and Violin: Andrew Litton (0171-580 1000), Michael Barber, 24, Great Street, London EC2, 071-582 5211, tonight, tomorrow, 6.30pm.

MUCH ADG ABOUT NOTHING: After the success of the London Night's Dream for the London International Festival of Theatre last year, the Romanian director Alexandru Dancu returns to the Barbican with *Much Adg About Nothing*, a play by William Shakespeare, 5.30pm, in collaboration with Old Ford Stage Company. The co-production goes on a national 18-week tour from 1992 to 1993. Tickets £10-25. Barbican, 24, Great Street, London EC2, 071-582 5211, tonight, 7.45pm, mat 8pm.

TERRELL INGUTH: The Almeida Opera Festival presents *Agelaius*, Terrell Inguth's new work, 7.30pm, 2pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm, Barbican, 24, Great Street, London EC2, 071-582 5211, tonight, tomorrow, 6.30pm.

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GEORGE BAZELATZ - PRINTS 1964-90: What's not standing the musicals of young 30s Greenwood for his

sculptures this important?

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

sculptures this important?

contemporary German artist shows aggressively cutting into the art block or even the most modest of us to his some interesting prints. This survey of graphic work looks at us from his earliest times to his most recent prints to his latest prints, featuring monochrome pastiches and latterly his small

works, endlessly examining a single motif.

Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 071-821 1371 Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.50pm, opens today until 8pm.

ANTONI TAPIES: The Serpentine Galleries has staged a popular exhibition which confirms Tapias's reputation as Spain's most distinguished living painter. The exhibition, which opened on the 15th, has been curated by Julian Tapias, who was a leader of the European avant-garde and reveals just how uncompromising an artist he is. Serpentine, Kensington Gardens, London W2 071-402 6075 Daily, 10am-6pm, until August 9.

IMAGINE: From the team who created *Good Riddance*, *Tommy* and *Immortal*, comes *Imagine*, a musical comedy about love, life and work, directed by Roger Vignoles (Opera House, 7.45pm, Festival Box Office, Burton Opera House, Water Street, Burton 0298 721901, until August 2).

BUXTON FESTIVAL: Tonight the festival offers Handel's opera *Ariodante*, performed by the English Opera Company, directed by Roger Vignoles (Opera House, 7.45pm, Festival Box Office, Burton Opera House, Water Street, Burton 0298 721901, until August 2).

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL: The Cheltenham Quartet continues performing its series of recitals by Bach and Bartók this week. Tonight in the Pump Room at 11am, the programme includes the premiere of John Tavener's second opera, *The Last Supper*. Also tonight, the folk group The Dubliners (Town Hall, 8pm) and Northern Ballet Theatre in Swan Lake (Everyman, 7.30pm).

CHETHAM'S INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC: Imperial Square, Chetham's (0242 523 3691, 7.30pm, Sat, 2pm).

GEORGE BAZELATZ - PRINTS 1964-90: What's not standing the musicals of young 30s Greenwood for his

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LIFE & TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 15 1992

ARTS 3

Two-way Atlantic crossing

The Royal Shakespeare Company marks the Columbus quincentenary by premiering an epic play by the American dramatist Richard Nelson. Matt Wolf spoke to him

Christopher Columbus these days is less a historical figure than a one-man industry, as cultural events the world over reassess the Italian explorer 500 years after he "sailed the ocean blue". Two major films are en route, one directed by Ridley Scott and starring Marlon Brando and Tom Selleck. BBC 2 continues to air the seven-part series *Columbus and the Age of Discovery* and New York's Metropolitan Opera will launch Philip Glass's thematically related new opera, *The Voyage*, on — when else? — Columbus Day, October 14.

The theatre is making its own quincentenary contribution. Michele Celete's *Columbus: Bloodying the Ocean*, now at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, views its eponymous traveller as the perennial outsider, and New York's alternative troupe, Hot Peaches, weighs in next week at the Drill Hall in London with *Christopher Street Columbus*, the title a cheeky nod to the gay bars of Greenwich Village.

But promising to occupy a category all its own is the Royal Shakespeare Company's mainstay event of the summer: Richard Nelson's epic *Columbus, and the Discovery of Japan*. It has a running time of three and a half hours and a cast of 26, headed by Jonathan Hyde.

Can the fascination of Columbus survive this attention? Revisionists stand by poised for battle, eager to amend the so-called "legend". His discovery of America, they say, triggered an experiment in genocide that should be reviled, not celebrated. Nelson, by contrast, takes the ironist's perspective, standing outside the fray. An American dramatist now enjoying his third successive world premiere with the RSC, he values his affinity for ambitious and paradox-laden theatre, rather than for the kind of politically correct (or incorrect) point-scoring found elsewhere.

"He's sympathetic and he's foolish and he's sad and he's funny," Nelson, 41, says of his re-imagined Columbus, aware that his play's timing comes as a mixed blessing. "Most writers keep a little notebook of projects, and I've had a Columbus idea for about ten years. It was very

worrisome, far more frightening to do it in 1992 than in any other time. To be frank, it hooks my play into an event that it really isn't about."

"I stand clear of the ideological battle. The beginning point for me is this man who was in Spain and he was foreign and poor and he had never captained a ship in his life, and all of his charts and maps were wrong and were proven wrong by scholars. How did this man with these credentials, or lack of credentials, gain a royal charter and set sail with three ships across the open sea? What one is trying to do is give a rich texture of an individual on a journey in his relationship to his world."

Columbus sounds in fact like the paradigmatic Nelson hero: a voyager adrift in an often alien social context, a world traveller ironically exiled from his own sense of self. One thinks of the naive American journalist plunged into Latin American politics in *Principia Scriptoriae*, the play which marked Nelson's London debut in 1986, or in 1986, the

Czech theatre director and his actress wife uprooted to a tiny Manhattan flat in *Between East and West*, seen in Hampstead the next year.

Nelson's two previous RSC commissions dealt with similar issues of dislocation. In *Some Americans Abroad* (1989), American academics on a theatre tour to England sentimentalise plays whose titles they cannot remember and gather on



Nelson: "I'm writing for a large canvas, and not a lot of American playwrights have that ambition"

Westminster Bridge in the rain to recite Wordsworth's poem about it. *Two Shakespearean Actors* the following season folded a love letter to the theatre within an examination of xenophobic run rampant, based on the riots that attended British actor William Macready's performance of Macbeth in New York in 1849.

At their worst, Nelson's plays come

off as smug theses that never cohere into full-blooded drama; at their best, they offer a distinctly wry and expansive vision at odds with the narrowly conceived naturalism that dooms many American plays in London. Not for Nelson the family drama representing many a writer's starting point: "I don't think in those terms. I'm more interested in how I see other things."

Born in Chicago, Nelson was introduced to theatre via boyhood

trips to Broadway musicals with his mother, a former chorus dancer who gave up performing to raise two children. He won the playwriting competition at Hamilton College in upstate New York during each of his four student years, and had written "maybe 20" plays by the time he was 21. His professional debut came in 1975 in Los Angeles with *The Killing of Yablonski*, about the trial of union boss Tony Boyle. Three years later, he decided to enter the classical theatre, embarking on a concurrent career as a translator/adaptor with Molière's *Don Juan*.

The decision was crucial. "For what I wanted to say in the theatre I needed to find and deal in forms larger than just the last 20 years of American theatre, which was all one could really see in New York. With

Molière or Goldoni or Chekhov, it's a

given that you have both the individual and the context for that individual. Very early on, I was interested in that conflict — if the world makes an impact on him or it doesn't, the successes and frustrations of it all. It's wonderful to see something one has heard about presented in a way that may be exciting and rich and new; that's what theatre is."

Nelson's theatre has proved adaptable to a variety of settings. The playwriting notes proudly that he has had five shows on Broadway in the last eight years (among them the shortlived 1988 production of the musical *Chess*, for which he wrote a new book). Nelson enjoys a relationship with the RSC unique among American dramatists and, with Russian author Alexander Gelman, has written a comedy set during last summer's Moscow coup as a co-

commission of the RSC and the Moscow Art Theatre.

"It's something one has to train for," Nelson says of his interest in large-scale work well suited to Britain's subsidised theatre. And success here never hurts when it comes to productions back home. The Broadway staging of *Two Shakespearean Actors* this winter received five Tony nominations, including Best Play.

"I'm writing for a large canvas, and not a lot of American playwrights have that ambition. How could you begin to write a play like *Columbus* without a focus or a hope or a specific ambition of where you want the play to go? The RSC's resources are part of the attraction. We found each other, and it's good in both directions."

• Columbus, and the Discovery of Japan is in preview and opens next Wednesday at the Barbican Theatre (071-638 8391).

FRINGE THEATRE: Martin Hoyle reviews *Schmucks* at BAC in Battersea

Punchlines could hit harder

If Roy Smiles's two-act variation on a comic theme were condensed into one it would make an agreeable theatre club entertainment to be enjoyed after a bibulous dinner. As it is, an act of homage to Lenny Bruce and Groucho Marx complete with re-enacted comedy routines, makes a belated bid for significance. The subsequent tiltings over the psychological origin of comedy, its social functions and its relationship with cruelty come too late and look too tacked-on. The first half has spent so much time establishing the late comics' credentials and reminding us of their style that it resembles a separate, self-contained show.

James Help's design ingeniously combines sordid bistro, pizza house, the London skyline, a showbiz aura (up to the minute, to judge by the Royal Opera Puritan poster) and even, with the help of Ian Tyrrell's lighting, a corner of the Palladium stage — swagged curtain, proscenium arch and all.

Joey Villis (the likeable Malcolm Ridley) is a Jewish stand-up comedian; a rotten one if we are to believe him, and



William Marsh, Malcolm Ridley and Dave Mayberry

after hearing a soundtrack of his act, we do. His gloomy broodings are disturbed by the eruption on stage of two raunchy ghosts ("St. Julius and St. Leonard, patron saints of Jewish comics"; Marx and Bruce) for it is they who advise Joey to go on the town, get

drunk, and quarrel. There is the fascinating stuff of drama in Bruce's drug addiction and fatal overdose in a public toilet, in Groucho's final isolation from his family. It all makes the writer's attempt to interest us in Joey's guilt — the non-achieving Jewish kid who

ARTS BRIEF

Writers' forum

NORTH WEST Playwrights' Workshops, based at Manchester's Contact Theatre, is celebrating its tenth anniversary as one of the country's leading platforms for new writing with a two-week festival of plays, workshops and discussions, starting tomorrow. Founded when there was virtually no new work being produced in the area, NWPW now has an annual budget of £50,000 and funds bursaries and residencies for new playwrights.

Five new plays get several days of workshop by professional actors and directors and are then presented as script-in-hand performances. Playwrights chairing events include David Edgar, Trevor

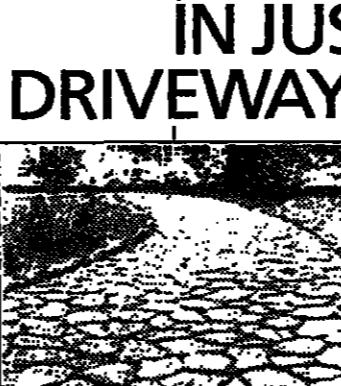
Griffiths, Louise Page, Peter Flannery and Charlotte Keatley. Further details on 061-274 4400.

Last chance . . .

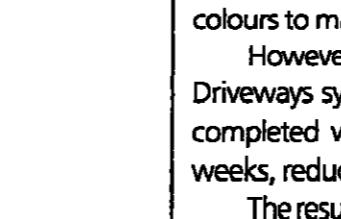
THE collections of the Corporation of London are a curious mixture of historical relics, like the First Charter granted by William the Conqueror in 1067, and artworks acquired by gifts, bequest or (occasionally) purchase. "The Celebrated City" at the Barbican Art Gallery until Sunday (071-638 4141) includes the whole of the 1987 bequests from Lord Samuel of Wyck Croft: more than 80 17th-century Dutch paintings, among them a famous Hals, *The Merry Little Player*. Also on view are many of the finest works by the Pre-Raphaelites and their contemporaries.

• Art in Paris: see European Arts, page 4

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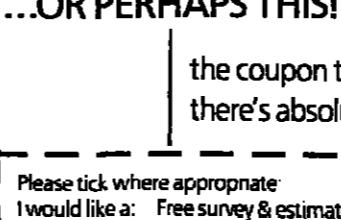
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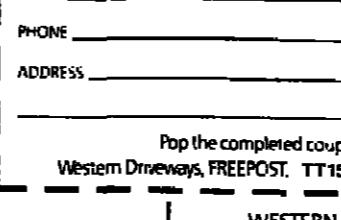
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What, are you stepping westward?

John Russell
Taylor visits
some art shows
outside Paris and
comes across
unexpected treasure

THE TIMES
PASSPORT TO
PARIS

FOR outsiders, Paris bulk if anything larger in the image of France than London does in the image of Britain. But that is by no means the favoured idea of the French authorities: not only does regionalism thrive, but from the centre there is a strong impulse towards decentralisation and devolution. So much so that, for instance, the national collection of prints and drawings is at Gravellines, not in Paris, while the National Museum of the Renaissance is in Ecouen and the National Museum of Antiquities in St-Germain-en-Laye.

In the way of exhibitions, also, the regional museums take a strong line, especially in the West. Often the subject chosen has, as one might expect, important local connections. But not necessarily so. The only reason that a major retrospective of the now largely forgotten painter Henri Gervex starts its tour at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux (or to be more precise, at its temporary exhibition space, the Galerie des Beaux-Arts) is that Gervex's most famous painting, *Rolla*, is in the museum's collection. A research student interested in Gervex thought it a good place to start, and from that gradually evolved the idea of a total revaluation.

Gervex is certainly ripe for revaluation. He is remembered, if at all, as an academic painter when the initiative was with the Impressionists, an artist whose big sensation was ethical rather than aesthetic. *Rolla*, the sensation in question, owed much of its fame to having been removed from the Salon of 1879 on grounds of immorality. In fact, for all its reputation for shocking realism, it is an illustration to a fatalistic poem by Musset. It appears to be a scene after a night of guilty passion: a nude woman does luxuriously, her garments tossed on the floor, while her lover, in his shirt-sleeves, looks back at her from an open window: the room is suffused with glittering morning light.

Although Gervex went on to paint social-realist works in the 1880s, then to become a successful painter



Rolla by Henri Gervex: the painting that shocked France in 1879 — but not for the same reason that the canvases of the Impressionist painters did

of society in a more Proustian sense of the term around the turn of the century, as well as a sought-after decorator of grand restaurants, town halls, casinos and such, he was in himself a good example of how artistic circles we suppose to have been totally separate were in fact inseparably intermeshed. He was a friend of Zola and Maupassant. He was also closely associated with the Impressionists: not only the socially prominent ones such as Manet and Degas, but also the working-class Renoir. Indeed, there is much in his work reminiscent of the earlier Tissot, a society painter and friend of the Impressionists without noticeably sharing their aesthetic.

These days, few are likely to turn up their noses at even his most shamelessly *monde* works. Some of his portraits — the full-length figure of his wife standing in front of a rust-coloured curtain, for instance — have a panache reminiscent of early Sargent. The works associated with his visit to Russia to paint the coronation of Nicholas and Alexandra in 1896 range from the grand *pièces d'occasion* to exquisitely deli-

cate landscapes. And the evocations of the world of Proust are as compelling in their way as the earlier pictures of workers hauling coal or the poor waiting at the point of total subservience at least to the extent that Lurcat's feathers, flames and flowers, not to mention

more transcendental versions of the same in overtly religious works, became universally recognised as the hallmark of modern French tapestry. Through gifts to visiting heads of state and major commissions for public spaces, secular and devotional, Lurcat became almost the laureate of France during the De Gaulle years, though his widow insists that the two men did not know each other personally. But even in tapestries he had his more private side, and this comes to the fore in the paintings. They begin a touch surreal, a touch whimsical (a lot of lonely fishermen on the empty seashore) and when he takes up gouache again after the second world war they seem for a while merely decorative diversions. But

then in the last few years they blaze out in vibrant colour, recalling the subject-matter of the early work but with increased authority.

Though this centenary exhibition is mainly devoted to the paintings, the tapestries being fully covered elsewhere, especially at Aubusson where most of them were made, in the Lurcat museum they are right next to the medieval hospital building which permanently houses his climactic work, the series of large tapestries entitled *Le Chant du Monde* which bring all his themes together in a sort of grand finale. Curiously enough, the other artist prominently honoured in a museum of western France, Edward Burne-Jones, is also remembered today at least as much for his decorative works — designs for tapestry, stained glass, book illustrations — as for his paintings. The reason for a major exhibition of his drawings at the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Nantes is rather tenuous: however, the recent acquisition by the museum of his portrait

of Lady Frances Balfour (never exhibited and when bought still belonging to the sitter's family, which lives near Nantes) seems like a good excuse for what is said to be the first chance ever for France to see a one-man show of his work.

All the drawings come from the amazing holdings of Burne-Jones in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. They include most of the original designs for wood blocks in the Kelmscott Chaucer, designs for stained glass and tiles, and preparatory studies for many of his major paintings, such as *The Beguiling of Merlin* and *Love and the Pilgrim*. These latter may lose something of their effect for a public not familiar with the final works, but there are still manifold beauties to cement yet another cross-Channel cultural link.

• **PARIS:** Jacques Lasalle directs two rarely performed Moléne plays. *La Comtesse d'Escaubagnas* satirises provincial pretensions when a woman believes she has three suitors but two turn out to be deceiving her. *Georges Dandin* centres on a rich farmer married to a girl who is noble but poor.

Comédie Française, 1 place Colette, Paris. Tel: (010 331) 40150015. In the repertoire until end of July; then September-December.



Markus and Karlheinz Stockhausen (see Warsaw)

Perspectives on Spoleto: three Times critics at the Festival of the Two Worlds

The town Menotti rebuilt

In any other context, a Scottish aristocrat got up like a Druid reciting mystical verse would appear ridiculous. However, at a banquet for 300 people held in Spoleto's magnificent Piazza Duomo, the Earl of Haddington's gesture seemed entirely appropriate to everyone.

The occasion was the 81st birthday of Gian Carlo Menotti, the man who transformed the decrepit Umbrian hill town into a thriving art centre. Guests wore wreaths of intertwined oak leaves.

Over the past 35 years theatricality has been the key to the success of Menotti's Festival of the Two Worlds. Beside the cathedral stands the Caio Melisso theatre where midday chamber music recitals are held.

It is an exquisite late 17th-century theatre rescued by the maestro in the late 1950s from its sad fate as a shabby cinema. To hear a teenage violinist scampering through arrangements by Fritz Kreisler against the florid backdrop of this theatre's auditorium is to understand *joli de vive*.

The facade of the larger mid-19th century Teatro Nuovo is as undistinguished as that of any provincial theatre on the continent. But inside the opulence of La Scala has been reproduced in miniature. This year's productions of *Die Meistersinger* and *Donizetti's Il Duca d'Alba*, could not have found a more



Spoleto on its Umbrian hilltop: its churches and theatres are splendidly restored

sympathetic setting (see below).

It is not, however, Spoleto's purpose-built theatres alone that make this festival unique. While elsewhere in central Italy Romanesque and Baroque churches decay, Spoleto's churches have been restored thanks to the festival. Now, for example, the austere medieval church of Sant'Eufemia is requisitioned for small exhibitions, while the later San Nicolò is temporarily converted into a theatre.

Not often can a 14th-century church have witnessed the provocative nudity which is the staple of the Bill T Jones Dance Company from Chicago. In a dance work called *Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin*

which tackles head on the issues of AIDS and racism, the entire cast eventually confronts the audience stark naked. In spite of the licence allowed by Spoleto authorities, the San Nicolò event — perhaps, also, because of the anti-Papal taunts in its accompanying text — proved too much. After two performances it was decreed that genitalia were to be covered.

The visual arts benefit no less from their settings than the performing arts. This year's flagship exhibition comprises paintings and drawings by Gustave Moreau borrowed from the Paris museum dedicated to the symbolist painter. It is a fine selection, emphasising the

artist's use of photographs and preliminary drawings for oil paintings. It is at the Palazzo Racanlioni till September 6.

No individual space in Spoleto, however, bears comparison in terms of architectural drama with the cathedral square. On Sunday, in front of the renaissance portico of the building in which the artist Fra Filippo Lippi is buried, Italy's *bel mondo* gathered en masse for a performance of Haydn's *Creation*. It may not have been exactly the venue Haydn envisaged, but it is made for an unforgettable event.

ANDREW GIBBON WILLIAMS

phrased to reflect the broader sweep with which he is shaping the whole, and introspective and intimate moments are captured in fine focus.

Victor von Halem was singing Hans Sachs for the first time but no one could have guessed. He has everything the part demands: his warm, soft-grained bass flows easily through all Sachs's music, he poignantly words the words with a Lieder-singer's sensitivity, and his towering stature commands authority while conveying gentleness and humility. There is surely no finer Sachs today.

The tenor James O'Neal also gives an outstanding performance as Walther, leaving his virile ardour with more poetry than most Walthers ever muster. Franz Ferdinand Nentwig (Beckmesser) and Brenda Harris (Eva) are excellent members of a uniformly good cast, and the Westminster Choir sings splendidly. Menotti himself is responsible for the traditional, Brueghel-inspired production.

NIGEL JAMIESON

Viva Visconti

NOW in its 35th annual edition, Gian Carlo Menotti's brainchild is grand enough to get self-referential. Luchino Visconti's celebrated 1959 production at Spoleto of Donizetti's rarely-performed opera *Il Duca d'Alba* has been revived by Visconti's principal assistant, Filippo Sanjust.

Sanjust makes use of two of the most remarkable aspects of Visconti's original production, which won the original 1952 stage sets, unearthing in a state of miraculous preservation in a Rome theatre, and his clever pastiche of *fin de siècle* melodrama.

Sanjust's necessarily secondhand direction and the awkwardness of some singers at times conspires to bring this revival close to parody, but it is promptly saved by the remarkable young tenor Cesar Hernandes and the positively aero-

bic Italian conductor Alberto Maria Giuri.

The latter coaxes memorable

performances not only from the youthful Spoleto Festival Orchestra but also from the Westminster Choir, whom many would consider the real stars of this year's festival.

Two young British artists also

made their mark. Theo Esche, born in London but living in Rome, is often hailed as Italy's best video-maker, and he received an enthusiastic reception for his dazzling mosaic of a docu-biography of the choreographer Lindsay Kemp. *Travelling Light*, which is also slated for the London Film Festival this November.

Meanwhile, one of the Gerald

Scarfe-like drawings from Mancini David Hughes's one-man show received the supreme Spoleto accolade of gracing the official festival poster, which in Italy has all the collector's kudos of the Pirelli calendar.

WILLIAM WARD

Where Hamlet star-gazed?

Christopher Follett sees Tycho Brahe's renaissance observatory restored

A fascinating glimpse of the bygone world of renaissance astronomy awaits visitors to the tiny island of Ven, off Elsinore, in the narrow sound separating Sweden and Denmark at the mouth of the Baltic. It was at this unlikely location that Tycho Brahe, the 16th century Danish astronomer-royal, built Uraniborg Castle and adjacent Sjaerneborg — the fortress of the stars — the world's very first modern observatory.

Swedish archaeologists have just completed a major five-year reconstruction of the long-neglected ruins of the island observatory, where Brahe was built in 1576 in red brick to Brahe's own design, with exotic onion-shaped towers. In Dutch renaissance style, the castle's corners correspond to the four points of the compass. Nearby a modern statue shows Tycho Brahe scanning the solar system.

Uraniborg, with two central bays covered with conical copper roofs, was built with openings for star-gazing, was built in 1576 in red brick to Brahe's own design, with exotic onion-shaped towers. In Dutch renaissance style, the castle's corners correspond to the four points of the compass. Nearby a modern statue shows Tycho Brahe scanning the heavens.

Uraniborg proved too small and Brahe built Sjaerneborg in 1584. Subterranean chambers with stone instrument mounts can be seen today through protective glass domes. The equipment set up on Ven consisted of a weird array of measuring devices including quadrants and sextants, compasses and pendulums to aid the Danish astronomer in his research before the invention of the telescope.

complete with herb beds and apple orchard.

Brahe's main importance lay in his establishment of a scientific method of studying the universe and designing instruments which could accurately plot the position of stars for the first time. Brahe's work paved the way for his disciple, Johannes Kepler, the German astronomer, to establish that the sun — not planet Earth — was the centre of the solar system.

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Central Festival Box Office, Holland-Festival Early Music Utrecht, Post Box 734, NL-3500 AS Utrecht. Tel: (010 3130) 340981/313279/312791. August 28-September 6.

• **WARSAW:** The 35th International Festival of Contemporary Music is dominated by the music of Stockhausen this year with three programmes performed by Karlheinz himself, his son Markus and other members of his family. There is a new work by Ukrainian-born composer Leonid Hrabovska given by the Kiev Opera House Orchestra, and two concerts by the outstanding Kronos Quartet performing works by Marañón, Zorn and Southgate. Other appearances are by Ensemble Contrechamps from Geneva, The Hilliard Ensemble in an all-Piano programme, Jerry Maksymuk conducts the Simfonia Warsaw in works by Penderecki, Kurtag and Szynarski. Festival Office, Rynok Starego Miasta 27, PL 00-272 Warsaw. Tel: (010 310607). September 7-28.

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Is the battle lost if feminists go to war?

Linda Grant on fighting for your rights and fighting for your country

During the Gulf war, the writer Joan Smith was promoting her book *Misogynies* in the United States. At a feminist radio station in Berkeley, California, station staff were wearing T-shirts which parodied popular slogans such as "You wouldn't understand, it's a Jewish thing" or "You wouldn't understand, it's a Black thing". This one read, referring to the war, "You wouldn't understand, it's a dick thing".

The reader of the woman's chest was meant to understand that militarism is beyond the female understanding. That weapons are playthings for little boys who never grew up (expressed in the slogan "take the toys away from the boys"), or worse, a substitute for male anxiety about penis size.

Yet it was during the Gulf war that women in the military clamoured loudest in this century for the right to join the men in combat. About 40,000 American and 800 British female members of the military served in the Gulf. They showed the world that women pilots in the US forces could run flight operations, undertake helicopter missions, be captured and be killed. Like Major Marie Rossi, the lead pilot of a group of Chinook helicopters with the 101st Airborne who flew three missions in the first 24 hours of the war until her death, dozens of flights later, when she hit a tower in northern Saudi Arabia.

The Gulf war heightened the debate about women in the forces by moving from the hypothetical to the actual. What women might do was replaced by what they did. Male voices which insisted that women's role was to stay at home, to nurture and to mother were ridiculed. The argument that women were somehow biologically programmed not to be aggressive was dismissed as the worst form of sexist determinism.

Yet that view has been widespread this century, not only among the dinosaurs who still believe that women's place is in the home. It reached fever pitch only a decade ago in the views of the women protesters of Greenham Common. During the Falklands war the two iconic representations of the opposing view of women's role in war were seen in the depiction of Margaret Thatcher, like a combination of Boudicca and Britannia aboard a tank and the grandmothers of Greenham, pinning tampons, nappies and recipes to the perimeter fences of cruise missile sites.

Jill Liddington, the author of *The Long Road to Greenham: Feminism and Anti-Militarism in Britain Since 1980* (published by Virago) argues that Greenham was only the latest expression of a feminist commitment to pacifism that began at the beginning of the 19th century when Anna Knight, a Quaker, wrote that women's suffrage would bring peace and women in parliament would "soon take the tools of murder from the hands of her brute force brother and he would learn war no more".

Just before the first world war a militaristic strand in the suffragette movement argued that women's responsibilities as "mothers of the race" would naturally make



A woman at war: Nevenka Sisak, a 38-year-old mother of two children, at the controls of an anti-aircraft gun in Croatia

'No-one has a monopoly of peaceful or aggressive instincts'

them averse to war, whose "pomp and pride of uniforms, gold lace, medals and pensions are for men".

On the eve of the second world war, Virginia Woolf wrote in the feminist polemic *Three Guineas*, "if you insist of fighting to protect me or 'our' country, let it be understood, soberly and rationally between us, that you are fighting to gratify a sex instinct which I cannot share".

Greenham grew out of the eco-feminism popular in America in the 1970s. Ms Liddington points out in her book, "Bad" was male, science, high technology, centralisation, power, violence, oppression. "Good" was female, nature, low technology, nurturing, spirituality, ancient mythologies, the oppressed". Men and their war machines were destroying Mother Nature. The Greenham camp became increasingly taken over by new age feminist mystics, who renamed the gates of the camp with the colours of the rainbow.

Nonetheless, Greenham captured the imagination of ordinary women throughout Britain who had previously had nothing to do with feminism. It spoke particularly to mothers anxious for the future of their children. Greenham really did seem to epitomise a national female anxiety about war, an affirmation of the right to life. So strong was the pacifist resurgence that Lady Olga Maitland founded Women and Families for Defence in response to what appeared to be a tide of female revisionism against government defence policies.

Feminists of the later 1980s and early 1990s, however, have felt increasingly alienated from the typecasting they see Greenham imposing. Naomi Wolf, the author of *The Beauty Myth*, is in favour of

women taking their place in the US military, beside men. "No-one has the monopoly of peaceful or aggressive instincts," she says, pointing out that during the first world war women handed out white feathers to men who were not in uniform. "Women do have a precious historical tradition of nurturing and the world needs that but we should also abandon the mythologising of that as sentimental vision."

Women who join up envisage a career, training, and maybe some excitement if a war does break out. Doing what is already perceived as a man's job, they increasingly want to be equal to men in every activity, including killing. They may point to the thousands of women who fought in countless wars this century, as guerrilla fighters. But those are not women who would ever have thought of a military career if war had not come to them. In Vietnam, they engaged in hand to hand combat in the jungle, laid mines in the cities and executed raids from secret tunnels.

During the revolutions in Iran

and Nicaragua, women strapped on rifles, left their homes and went to war, and the same is beginning to happen in the Balkans. War on the doorstep can deaden normal

instincts and provoke fierce idealism. Female Vietnamese commanders I met in 1989 said that it was the experience of seeing their families killed by carpet bombing and napalm attack that had led them to take up arms. One recalled stumbling over a dead mother killed by a bomb, with her living baby still trying to suck at her breast. The experience led her two months later and still aged only 17, to plant a mine at a press conference killing 15 people. Seventeen years after the war ended, with her rusting medals left in a makeup bag, she is a housewife in Saigon.

The image of the guerrilla chick has always been glamourised and eroticised by the male left along with other images of women as warriors; that of the terrorists like the women in Italy's Red Brigades or the male-female partnership of the Baader-Meinhof gang in Germany. Ms Wolf believes that these images were acceptable to the male left because they transferred women's traditional sacrifice for her children to a sacrifice for the nation.

Mrs Wolf's support for women's entry into the forces is based on the observation that in the US, the military has been virtually the only route out of poverty for the country's African-Americans, culminating in Colin Powell's elevation to Joint Chief of Staff. It is now seen among working-class women, she says, as a similar way to get scientific training and status which is denied elsewhere. More importantly, however, she believes that women in the army are changing the army. "I don't think that women have any essential milk of human kindness

running through their bodies," she says. "But our culture of negotiation is going to make the world much safer when women are in 50 per cent of the leadership positions."

Joan Smith, whose book investigated the anatomy of male violence, also believes that there is no essential difference between men and women when it comes to aggression, citing Mrs Thatcher, "who happily led us into the Falklands". She argues that the notion of women entering the military attacks the very justification for war. "Society tells soldiers that they are killing people to protect their women at home. To have the women in the trench with you raises quite starkly the question of what you are doing there."

She believes that the cold war psyches men up into a state of aggressive readiness for battle that never came. "If you don't take that aggression out on the enemy, you turn it onto women," she says. She is concerned, however, that military culture is so macho, so hostile a place for women that those who do try to take their place beside men will find it sufficiently unpleasant they will be forced out "and men will say, I told you so".

The conflict in what is left of Yugoslavia seems like a textbook example of the kind of war that has been fought in Europe since the middle ages, with plenty of opportunity for death in various brutal ways. According to one former mercenary, it is the most popular war among his kind since Vietnam. It remains to be seen what place there will be in it for women, or what effect it will have on those in the forces who believe in women's equal right to kill.

Vivien Cherry is the only female skipper in a round-the-world race, and her sponsors are delighted

Sex matters at sea



In command: Vivien Cherry on board her yacht

When Vivien Cherry took the job of skipper in one of the ten identical yachts which will set out this autumn to race round the world in the British Steel Challenge, she knew that she would be more in the spotlight than any of her nine rivals. If her boat, Coopers & Lybrand, does well, her success will be greeted with congratulations which will carry overtones of condescending surprise if she and her crew arrive low down the field, there will be some whispers of "I told you so".

She is the only woman skipper in a contest which promises to be one of the most arduous ocean races ever sailed — and therefore one of the most complex and stamina-demanding sporting events of any kind. The course of the eight-month race will be around Cape Horn "the wrong way". The boats will sail against the prevailing wind and current.

Victory will go to the crew which has been most cunning or luckiest in reading the weather, and most unrelenting in responding to minute changes in conditions. In the past, ocean races have sometimes been decided by margins of seconds.

Deep-water sailing is still a predominantly male sport, even though women have repeatedly made their mark in it. Dame Naomi James was the first woman to sail alone around the Horn in her voy-

age round the world in 1977-78. Tracy Edwards led the all-woman crew of Maiden to victory in its class in the two toughest legs of the 1989-90 Whitbread race. But only one in seven of the 179 crew members in this year's race are women, a proportion that broadly mirrors numbers among the 400 original applicants.

On Monday the ten 67ft cutters finished a week-long race from the Solent to the Fastnet rock and back, by way of the western tip of Brittany. Coopers & Lybrand came in sixth. Functionally speaking, the outing was an extra, more extended, training run for crews, some of whose members had done little or no sailing before being picked for the contest three years ago. It has always been central to the concept of the race, devised by the round-the-world yachtsman Chay Blyth, that it gives a chance to dreamers with a longing for adventure and self-discovery, who come from outside the closed circle of committed racing types.

The preliminary race had a further function: to catch a few headlines and raise public interest in the main event. Ocean racing today is a sport with proven dividends for sponsors. Even in a recession, backers for each of the ten boats built by British Steel have come forward.

When Tracy Edwards was trying to raise sponsorship for

risers of this year's race were aware from the start that there would be publicity to be earned if they could find a female skipper. The management consultants Coopers & Lybrand must have been well

satisfied when names were drawn out of a hat and Ms Cherry was assigned to them.

"I always knew there would be slightly more difficulty for me because I would be in a spotlight," says Ms Cherry, who is small and quiet-voiced, with an air of being as well able to take a media blitz in her stride as a gale. "I haven't really found it is an issue, but I suppose there must be pressure to some extent — from outside the boat, and also inside it, just because you're different. I'm sure there will be a degree of difficulty, but we're going to make it work."

"Once we are out there and it's blowing 50 knots, and we're all cold, wet and tired, it will be the same for everyone. Some of the crew are quite chuffed because they know that the boat with a woman skipper will be more noticeable."

She will be in charge of a crew of three women and 11 men. The responsibilities of command do not seem to oppress her. But if she has that hunger to win which is said to be part of the equipment of a successful competitor, she does not wear it on her sleeve. "For me, the main challenge is that we are setting out to complete something, and everyone will win if they achieve it."

In shore life, she is an engineering services manager, a specialist in everything that

runs in pipes and ducts underneath the floorboards. "I was in charge of a small maintenance team — but a boat with a crew of 14 is very different. That's the thing that has taken most adjusting to."

She did not become seriously interested in offshore sailing until 1981, when she was a student of 21, and her father offered to buy her a week's course in navigation. "It blew a gale all week, and I loved it. Since then I've done a lot of single handed and short-handed sailing. I have done one single-handed transatlantic race and a two-handed race round the British Isles."

She is used to making long ocean passages, but the diplomacy of being in charge of a crew of keyed-up individuals of all ages and backgrounds will be a new challenge. "It is not bad weather that will be the test for them, so much as the experience of sustained sailing for weeks on end. Most of them don't know what that will be like."

"The real shock will be when it's over, and life as we will have known it for eight months will stop. There will be jobs to look for, relationships to pick up. After this, we should have the self-discipline to cope. But it's a situation we can't fully foresee because one thing is certain — when we have been through it, all of us will have changed."

GEORGE HILL

At the heart of a nation

Anxiety is growing over the abortion policies of Poland's new premier

Hanna Suchocka, is the first woman prime minister in Poland, where the women's movement is still in its infancy, and is seen as both a role model for her sex and a threat to their freedom.

The prime minister, who is professor of law at the Catholic University in Lublin, is heavily backed by the Roman Catholic church. Her cabinet contains five ministers from the Christian National Union, the church's political voice.

This is of great concern to feminists in Poland, where the church is backing a campaign to overturn the communist-era law permitting abortion on demand. Miss Suchocka is one of only seven deputies from the liberal Democratic Union to sign a restrictive replacement that would permit abortions only in the case of rape, incest or threat to the mother's life, and which would jail those convicted of helping a woman to obtain an abortion not meeting these criteria. The measure is expected to be debated in parliament next week.

The prime minister makes no bones about the fact that her philosophical values are based on church doctrine. However, she sidesteps the abortion issue. "It is very difficult to suspend one's beliefs," she says, but adds: "The parliament will decide. The government will not interfere."

Barbara Labuda, another democrat deputy and the head of the women's parliamentary caucus, says: "Women all over Poland are afraid she will put pressure to implement such a law. She was strongly supported by the church and the [Catholic] caucus only because she supported the anti-abortion law."

Miss Suchocka is the fourth woman to have a leading role in the four governments since the end of communist rule in Poland in 1989. The country's male-dominated political scene defers to Miss Suchocka — a phenomenon she may be able to use to her advantage. "I will be more supportive, because she is a woman," pledged an enthusiastic President Lech Walesa.

Miss Suchocka says: "I think my colleagues look at me more closely, asking, 'Will she yield, will she break up, will I be manipulated?' I am treated as something extraordinary. This is an additional burden. I have to prove myself but still be myself."

She is a specialist in constitutional matters, citizens' rights and minority issues. Fluent in German, French and English, she is also the vice-president of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe.

which she is said to admire for its efficient organisation, in contrast to the loquacious Polish Sejm (lower house), in which she is a deputy.

Her name came as a surprise when she emerged two weeks ago as a possible compromise leader in a country racked by political instability since the October 1991 parliamentary elections, which seated an unmanageable 29 political parties in the Sejm.

One of Miss Suchocka's greatest admirers, Jacek Kuron, a long-time Solidarity activist, who is now her labour minister, said her name arose as an emergency candidate inside her party, the Democratic Union, "because she is from outside all the alignments".

Hanna Suchocka (pronounced so-hohs-ka) comes from the Wielkopolska region in western Poland, an area once under Prussian domination, with decades of tradition in banking, industry and brisk competition with the Germans in the area. She was born in Pleszew, a town of about 20,000 near Poznan, in 1946. Her grandmother was minister for women's affairs in Poland's first independent government in 1919 under Ignacy Jan Paderewski. Both her parents were pharmacists.

She shares a flat in Poznan with her dog Zulik ("hooligan"), tactfully described by one magazine as "multirace" in order to avoid using the word mongrel, with its derogatory connotations in Polish.

In 1980, she became a deputy in the Sejm for the Democratic Alliance, one of the satellite parties allied with the PZPR, the Polish communist party. It was not long, however, before she began taking an independent position during some of the parliamentary debates. In 1984, she quit the Democratic Alliance and joined the Solidarity movement.

Her strong point is that she stands for certain values and lives up to them," says her good friend, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, now the head of the National Bank of Poland. "She proved that in the 1980s, when courage was not so cheap and she did not have a husband to support her."

Anne Popowicz, the former campaigner for women and family rights, whose post went in February, believes it is certain that Miss Suchocka will become a symbol of success for Polish women, encouraging them to become more active in politics and social work. "But", she says, "I am not sure whether women's rights will benefit."

PATRICIA KOZA



Traditional values: many women fear Hanna Suchocka's views.

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More than a game: with as much at stake off the field as on it, Cameroon's tour to South Africa finally woke the politicians up to the consequences of their rhetoric

Striking gold in Soweto

Football was one of the first sports to integrate in South Africa.
Arthur Goldstuck reports on its re-admission into the world arena

Bill Shankly once said that football is not a matter of life and death — it is much more important than that. If ever those words became prophetic, it was in South Africa this month.

As negotiations for a democratic constitution collapsed, and as the government and the African National Congress (ANC) traded blame for township massacres, South African football, excluded from international events for 30 years, was reborn.

Cameroon — the giant-killers of the 1990 World Cup who almost defeated England in the quarter-finals — arrived in South Africa on Sunday July 5. Unlike the cricket and rugby rebel tours of the past decade, it became clear soon after the Cameroon players stepped off their plane that this tour would bring no succour to the white minority government.

As the footballers walked into the arrivals lounge of Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport, they were mobbed by hundreds of black youths — most of them waving the flag of the ANC. The Cameroon's charismatic dreadlocked forward Jean Claude Pagal told a press conference he would "gladly trade all the glory of the World Cup for this reception".

South African football has come a long way since the days, 20 years ago, when whites were not allowed to attend games between black clubs in the townships and black supporters at white grounds were required to sit in segregated seats. The football authorities have always taken a different stance from their rugby and cricket counterparts, preferring to put their own house in order rather than encouraging rebel tours. The white National Football League and black National Professional Soccer League united in the National Soccer League in 1977. In the face of much government hostility, clubs merged, black business men took over white teams, whites became the stars of predominantly black township

teams. As soon as the government allowed school boards to decide on their own sports' policies, rules preventing racial mixing, from junior school level up, were summarily dumped. For more than a decade, footballers, white and black, and the football authorities, have been seen as sharing, and in many ways, embodying, black democratic aspirations.

The Cameroon squad maintained this tradition. The day after their arrival, they joined the South African team in visiting a squatter camp at Boipatong township, where more than 40 people had been massacred last month in a night time attack by Zulu-speaking raiders loyal to the Inkatha Freedom Party, the government's main ally in negotiations.

The Cameroon tour, like all pending sporting ties with South Africa, had been given ANC approval on two conditions: that all the players visited Boipatong, and that they wear black armbands with the words "peace and democracy" during all contests.

While South African provincial rugby authorities huffed and puffed their refusal, and long-suffering athletes stoically agreed to do anything that would get them to Barcelona, it was the football players who brought real dignity to the proceedings.

"Going out there was the least we could do," said South Africa's goalkeeper, Mark Anderson, a white star with the black township side Mamelodi Sundowns. Throughout the memorial service Anderson stood with his arm round Roger Milla, Cameroon's World Cup hero.

The early commitment to racial mixing partly explains the huge popularity of football in the townships. The other reason for the game's status is surely economic: football is cheap and easy to organise

in the dusty township streets. Tens of thousands of people play the game every weekend in junior and amateur leagues. Attendance at a top game, such as a derby between Sowetan sides Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates, can draw 50,000 supporters.

The third game between South Africa and Cameroon in Soweto last Saturday, drew even more. Almost 80,000 supporters packed the Soccer City stadium and witnessed the 2-2 result. Thousands of whites from the suburbs of nearby Johannesburg sat shoulder to shoulder with their

ball. Once Cameroon had been and gone, officials promised the supporters, there would be even bigger fish to fry: the national sides of Denmark and Germany — the finest in Europe and even Brazil, had insisted they would be among the first in the queue. The prospect made it almost worth having waited a lifetime. There was only one hurdle still to come: the International Football Federation's (Fifa) annual congress in Zurich on July 1, when a final vote would be taken on South Africa's re-admission to the world body.

This was to be a mere formality. Then came the June 17 massacre at Boipatong. The ANC called off already fragile negotiations. To the ordinary South African this cataclysm was as nothing compared to the ANC's hints that the sports boycott would be reimposed.

For the average South African, the dark, incestuous years of watching national sides which could only compete with themselves — or with rebel tourists who were despised as much inside the country as outside — loomed once more. Football officials, who had been in the forefront of desegregated sport for 20 years, saw the reward for their patience slip inexorably away. On June 27, Cameroon put the issue beyond doubt. They called off the tour, with no explanation.

Suddenly, it appeared, the politicians woke up to the consequences of their rhetoric. Nelson Mandela, who was on an official visit to West Africa at the time, met Cameron's head of state, President Paul Biya, and advised him that the ANC had no objections to the tour. With that assurance, the tour was back on track. Almost simultaneously, Fifa announced that South Africa's re-

admission to the world body had been unanimously approved. The process was back on track.

While Cameroon represent the progress of African football, Crystal Palace, the south London team that arrived in South Africa yesterday are symbolic of black success at club level. While Liverpool and Manchester United are far and away the most popular English clubs in this country, Palace are held in high regard in the townships for their large contingent of black players. The English league is followed in minute detail by most South African supporters — English football magazines are widely available, media interest is intense and the FA Cup final, broadcast live, is a huge event in the South African sporting calendar. Palace's first opponents on Saturday, will be Kaizer Chiefs, the team that has made football a religion for an estimated million paid-up members of their supporters' club. Their following extends across Africa, and numerous countries to the north eagerly await tours from the Soweto side.

Much the same applies to their Sowetan neighbours, Orlando Pirates, often referred to as "The Buccaneers" — or simply the Bucs. They play Palace on Sunday, in the climax of a weekend football festival that also sees the Swaziland side Mbabane Highlanders in action here for the first time. The importance of the Palace games can be seen in the relegation of the Highlanders' matches to curtain-raiser status.

The Cameroon and Crystal Palace tour will be followed by many others. The Flamengo club arrives from Brazil next month to play three games. But it is the Palace series that will be the crucial test for South African club football. Local teams have not played a single foreign club side since integration began in the 1970s. Now, they may well be spoilt for choice.

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The years of watching national sides which could only compete with themselves loomed once more

counterparts from the townships and ANC flags carried by supporters waved under the winter sun. In open defiance of the laws one youth followed the peanuts and cold vendors up and down the stands, offering ready-rolled marijuana for sale. The carnival atmosphere reflected the feeling that the new South Africa had finally been created by the sports lovers.

But it almost did not happen. South African football officials had spent months lining up the tours that would celebrate the country's impending re-admission to world foot-

nounced that South Africa's re-

Channel 5 will need youth on its side

Moses Znaimer
believes his
video vérité
will succeed

informal television network dedicated to the urban trend with round-the-clock news, movies and music. CityTV London will be followed in 1994 by CityTV Manchester, while partnerships will be struck with local businesses to start other City TVs around Britain with simultaneous but different broadcasts.

"I want to give viewers a different feel in a business where the pressure towards sameness is overwhelming," says Mr Znaimer, contemptuous of those ITV barons and BBC executives who are so confident his CityTV formula cannot be so easily imported.

"Local may be a word for inferior in British broadcasting, but local is where people live," says the 49-year-old, whose career has included spells as a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation current affairs producer and TV presenter.

Next July, Londoners will encounter their first CityTV crews if the Independent Television Commission awards the new Channel 5 licence to Thames Television, which together with Moses Znaimer, founder of the lucrative Toronto station, last week submitted the only bid.

Both Thames and Mr Znaimer have promised to create a distinctive, lively and



Local views are good: Moses Znaimer says whoever you are, local is where people live

We're gritty, site-specific, and video, verité, real-time," he says.

Twenty years ago, aged 29, Mr Znaimer launched CityTV. After a shaky start — and this is a lesson for those British television executives writing off Channel 5 as a disaster waiting to happen — CityTV is one of the most

profitable stations in the world and shares with CTV (Canada's ITV) top ratings.

"I do have a certain sense of déjà vu," Mr Znaimer says. "We got the same derisive laughter in 1972 from CBC and CTV that we're getting now from the BBC and ITV. Bay Street [Toronto's financial district] reacted then how the

City is reacting now. We opened CityTV reaching just 17 per cent of homes and having to persuade the rest to get new aerials or cable. CityTV London will open reaching about 55 per cent of homes. The analogies are eerie. I wouldn't have got the licence if the other guys had thought it workable. If it's a

Tuning-in to radio speak

The Archers' team has a wealth of tips for would-be scriptwriters

Health Club, there had better be a good reason why. Remember that the trial episode must use a maximum of seven characters but do not stick to two-handed scenes. "An economical but profitable use of cast" is called for.

Now, connective tissue. A page is devoted to structure, with particular attention given to those cliffhangers just before the signature tune. "hooks" as they are known in the trade. Writers providing episodes for a week are instructed to pick up Friday's hook by scene three on Monday, and Monday's hook by scene four on Tuesday.

Ms Whitburn, who moved to Ambridge from Channel 4's Brookside 14 months ago, said: "The common rules of writing for any soap are to do with logistical and economic constraints. It's a craft, first and foremost. People think that because something's on five days a week, it's easy. The good soap writer has to be supremely good at the craft and have the artistic talents of



Writer: Louise Page

a dramatist as well." In reality, the prospects of making it into the writing team are fairly remote, except for established professionals. However, two of the present writers did succeed as amateurs. The rota of eight, including Louise Page, the RSC veteran, is fixed until late 1993. There are two writers on the waiting list.

The first aim for novices is to gain an invitation to a Writers' Workshop, which is run like a real script meeting. From there the novice might graduate to a writers' reserve list. The next workshop is not due until next spring. Which leaves plenty of time to find out who's got a knocker and who's got a doorknob.

● Readers who want to receive a writing kit should send an SAE to The Archers, BBC Broadcasting Centre, Pebble Mill, Birmingham, B5 7SA.

NICK BAKER

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LIFE & TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 15 1992

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A woman-to-woman sale

Men rarely have the final say in the choice of family home. So why do they dominate the top estate agency positions? Rachel Kelly investigates

The mostly male population of London's grander estate agents have been reeling this month at the biggest sale of the year. It is not just that Ancaster House, at 8 Chesterfield Gardens, W1, sold for £20 million while most agents are struggling to achieve sales of half that value. It is the fact that it was sold by a woman.

Avril Butt sold the house for £20 million. Her success confirms a truth male agents would rather ignore: women tend to be better at selling houses than men.

Ask most husbands why they bought their house, and the answer is likely to be: "Because my wife fell in love with it." This denies the sound economic reasons usually cited: the cocktail that makes for affordability (lower interest rates plus an increase in real earnings); the end of political uncertainty with

Women estate agents understand the psyche of the women they are selling to

Clearly, price and location are important considerations, but the chemical reaction between the buyer and the bricks and mortar is often what matters more.

In that reaction, women are usually central. Lorna Vestey, from Knight Frank & Rutley, stresses that women give more weight to instinctive and emotional responses to a prospective home than most men. It is they who will fall in love with the kitchen and the bathroom or the view from a certain window.

Such romantic affinities are underpinned by sound practical reasons for the female predominance in the decision to buy. Women, after all, are likely to be spending more time at home, especially while they have young children and their husbands are away from home most of the day, working and commuting half-way across town. It is the women who know what it means to slug up three flights with a baby and toddler in tow; they who will drive the children to school and

Estate agency has been male-

market of falling investment values, it is usually the woman's choice that prevails in such battles.

The significance of women buyers in part helps to explain why women tend to make better estate agents than men: women agents understand the psyche of the women they are selling to. They share their hopes and fears, and can empathise with their clients in a way that most men find difficult. Women agents talk to their clients, whereas men tend to talk at them.

Saleswomen often share the local facilities as their clients do. When they say the nearby health centre is excellent, or praise the local shops, the saleswomen are talking with authority about facilities they actually use.

Estate agency has been male-

dominated for much the same reasons as other businesses: women have only relatively recently entered the fray, says Ms Vestey. Its traditional nature has been reinforced by the predominance of male public school boys among the top agents, although local agents are both less public-school dominated and less chauvinist. Even the grander agents are now changing.

As usual, the standard is set in America, where 80 per cent of estate agents are women, with no question of discrimination. However, employers everywhere have recognised that women are better at the job. If a development needs extra help to sell — such as a block of multi-million-pound flats in Kensington, London, for example — a woman is appointed (in this case, Regaline chose Maria, Lady Eskin).

There are problems, however. The very reasons why some women estate agents excel — their understanding of the domestic set-up of their clients — are also the reasons why they take ten years out of their careers midway, and often miss out



Mapping out her strategy: women trust their instinctive responses to homes, says Lorna Vestey

firms are women. The National Association of Estate Agents reflects this changing pattern. In 30 years, there has only been one woman president. Yet in the next five, there will be two in two years: evidence of the quality and standards set by women estate agents up and down the country.

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on the rewards of top management as a result.

The kidnapping of Stephanie Slater in January also alerted women and their employers to the dangers for women. Black Horse Agencies has begun courses in self-defence for female staff with the Bristol police, but the problem defies an immediate solution.

Notwithstanding such obstacles, the reality of female superiority in the main (there will always be exceptions) in the field should be recognised by estate agency, male-dominated top management.

Some agencies have quietly begun to promote women in recognition of their talents. Ms Vestey, for example, was made the first full partner selling homes in Knight Frank & Rutley three years ago, and some female associate partners have been appointed recently. Victoria Mitchell at Savills is an executive director.

Other agents would do well to follow these examples. Meanwhile, if in doubt, ask for a women agent.

Houses haunted by bogus buyers

What is it about big country houses which tempts clients to make impossible offers?

Hersmonceaux Castle, Wardour Castle, Littlecote: name any of the most important historic houses on sale and the chances are that it has been haunted by a phantom buyer (Rachel Kelly writes).

Hersmonceaux Castle in East Sussex is only the most glaring example. The sale was all but assured in 1990. Savills was ready to put out a press release trumpeting the castle's sale for £35 million (considerably higher than the £20-million asking price), contracts had been exchanged, and then they presto! the buyer vanished. Two years on, the house was put back on the market last week for £5 million, with the hope that its reduced price will keep away the Walter Mitty.

Every grand country agent has had a brush with one. "It happens on the whole to very large, slightly unusual houses," Patrick Ramsay, of Knight Frank & Rutley's country house department, says.

A phantom buyer haunts a house, putting a cloud over the sale. Often agents are left locked in litigation unable to sell to a new buyer until it is untangled. Everybody knows there has been a failed sale and the market is falsified.

Even agents advising buyers get caught out. William Gething, of Property Vision, was led a merry dance by a mythical buyer from a made-up company, Combin International, who expressed an interest in Littlecote. Peter de Savary's house in Wiltshire, "He was called a Mr von Brown. He sent us a headed paper listing his offices in 20 countries and was using a blue-chip London solicitor. We should have realised when he said he wouldn't pay our fee," Mr Gething says.

Mr Ramsay recalls one buyer

who drove a Bentley Turbo, with a young woman in tow, who visited a number of large country estates. "It turned out that he had borrowed the car for a test drive, and was trying to impress his young companion, to whom he was engaged, by pretending to buy houses he could not possibly afford. We introduced him to the police."

That was a decade ago. But Mr Ramsay says, the phenomenon has grown over the past few years as the recession makes agents less wary and more eager for sales. "I'd say that one might get 200 enquiries for Hersmonceaux in a year, of which 10 per cent of them would be fake," he says.

Another phantom buyer used "The Oxford and Cambridge Club" headed notepaper and said he would get the necessary finance from the sale of some Gainsboroughs which he saw were up for sale in the Sotheby's catalogue. Sotheby's was too discreet to reveal the seller, proving the perfect foil.

It all seems such time-wasting. But some phantoms are purposeful, aiming to impress bank managers and financiers by ostentatious house-hunting. "It's relatively easy to spot the dodgy ones," Mr Ramsay says. "They become difficult and elusive when you ask for their financial references."

The vagaries of British property law, whereby an offer is not legally binding, provide fertile ground for phantom buyers. The phenomenon is almost unknown in Scotland, where an offer is as good as exchanging.

Agents guard against phantoms with the usual checks on company registers and data bases. But, for all their distrust of obscure millionaire odd-balls, one eccentric is all that is needed for a sale. The next man with a Bentley Turbo could just be for real.



No sale: a phantom buyer made an offer for Littlecote, Wiltshire

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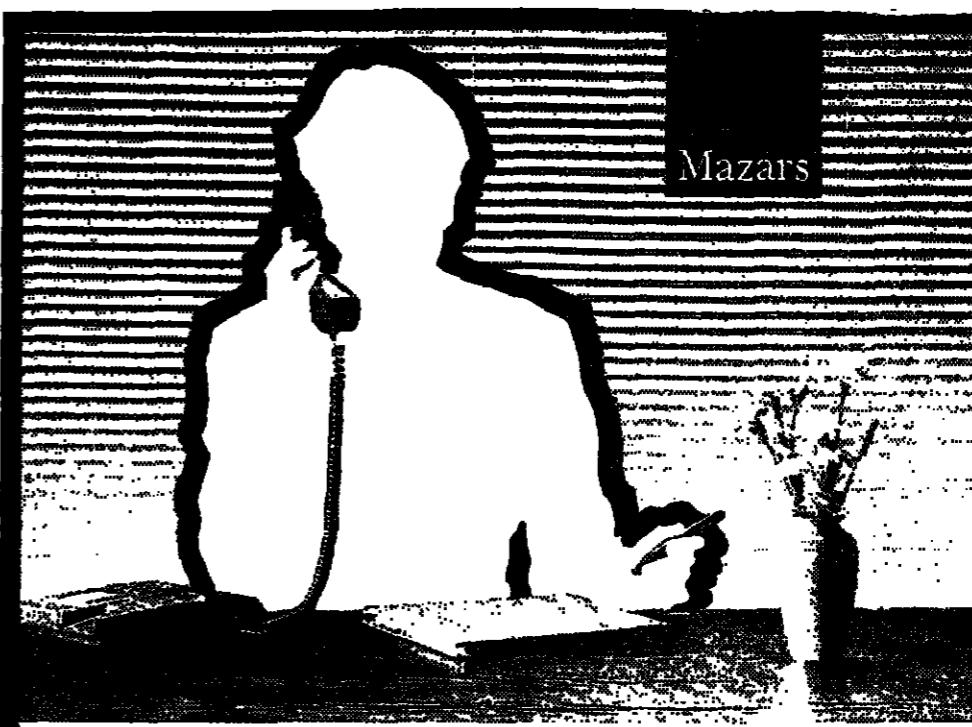
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Before Lord Donaldson of Lynington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Nolan

[Reasons July 10]

Section 8 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 did not confer competence to consent on minors over the age of 16 with regard to their medical treatment.

The court, in the exercise of its inherent jurisdiction to protect minors, had power to override the refusal of a girl aged 16 to consent to particular treatment for her condition of anorexia nervosa.

The Court of Appeal so stated giving reasons for its decision on June 30 authorising the local authority, which with the court shared responsibility for J's upbringing, to move her to a particular medical unit against her wishes and to give consent to the proposed treatment there.

On the hearing of the appeal evidence was given of an accelerated deterioration in J's condition. The court made an immediate ruling that she be transferred to the new unit and the order of Mr Justice Thorpe (The Times May 14) was varied accordingly.

The court imposed an injunction restraining (i) publication of any identification of J, other parties to the appeal or material calculated to lead to such identification, and (ii) the soliciting of any such information.

Mr Allan Levy, QC and Miss Deborah Shawkey for J; Mr John Samuels, QC and Miss Caroline Rudden for the local authority; Mr James Munby, QC and Mr Roderic Wood as *amicus curiae*; J's aunt in person.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS referred to the bereavements suffered by J through the loss of both parents in early childhood and more recently of her grandfather. She had been singularly unlucky in receiving unsuccessful fostering and had suffered depression for which she

had been referred to a consultation clinic.

In 1991 she had been admitted suffering from anorexia nervosa. It was a peculiarity of that condition that the disease itself created a wish not to be cured or only to be cured if and when the patient decided to cure himself or herself, which might well be too late. Treatment had to be directed at that state of mind as much as to restoring body weight.

The common law, against which section 8 of the 1969 Act was enacted, had been authoritatively considered and defined in *Gillick v West Norfolk and Wisbech AHA* [1986] AC 112. In *In re J (a Minor) (Wardship: Consent to Treatment)* [1992] Fam 11, where section 8 was not directly in issue, his Lordship had expressed views on the construction of the section which were at variance with academic and other writers.

They had said that a right to consent to medical treatment, whether required under the common law or *Gillick* under section 8, carried with it a right not only to refuse consent to treatment but to refuse the treatment itself.

The arguments in the central issue was not whether a patient under the age of 16 could refuse medical treatment if the parents or the court consented, but whether the parents could effectively impose a veto on treatment by failing or refusing to consent to treatment to which the child might consent.

The House of Lords had held

that consent would indirectly constitute an effective veto on the treatment.

In view of the quite different issue before the House in *Gillick* his Lordship ventured to doubt whether Lord Scarman meant more than that the exclusive right of the parents to consent terminated.

However, the issue now before the court, which never arose in *Gillick*, was whether the court had the power to override treatment in the face of J's refusal to consent.

The purpose of consent was that

clinical cooperation and confidence was a major factor contributing to success, and legal. That latter purpose was to provide those concerned in the treatment with a defence to a criminal charge of assault or battery or a civil claim for damages for trespass to the person, but not to a claim for negligence.

The wording of section 8(1) showed quite clearly that it was addressed to the legal purpose and effect of consent, and that it did so by making the consent of a 16 or 17 year old as effective as if it were of full age.

No question of common law *Gillick* competence arose.

The arguments that the 16 or 17 year old could by refusing consent veto the treatment, notwithstanding that the doctor had the consent of someone with parental responsibility for the minor, and *a fortiori* a consent by the court. But such a refusal was an important consideration in making clinical judgments and for parents and the court in deciding whether themselves to give consent. Its importance increased with the age and maturity of the minor.

Good parenting involved giving minors as much room as they could handle without an unacceptable risk that they would hurt themselves. It was self-evident that that involved giving them the maximum degree of decision-making which was prudent. Prudence did not involve the avoidance of all risk but of risks which if they did eventuate might have irreparable consequences or were disproportionate to the benefits accruing from taking them.

That approach was consistent with the philosophy of section 1 of the Children Act 1989. His Lordship rejected the submission that nevertheless his approach was inconsistent with sections 38(6) and 43(8) and paragraphs 4 and 5 of Schedule 3.

Section 8 accordingly gave minors over 16 a right to consent to surgical medical or dental treatment. Such consent could not be overridden by those with parental responsibility, but could be overridden by the court. The statutory right did not however extend to consent to the donation of blood or organs.

A minor of any age who was *Gillick* competent in the context of

medical treatment had a right to consent which could not be overridden by those with parental responsibility for the minor, and *a fortiori* a consent by the court. But such a refusal was an important consideration in making clinical judgments and for parents and the court in deciding whether themselves to give consent. Its importance increased with the age and maturity of the minor.

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selves. It was self-evident that that involved giving them the maximum

degree of decision-making which was prudent. Prudence did not involve the avoidance of all risk but of risks which if they did eventuate might have irreparable

consequences or were disproportional to the benefits accruing from taking them.

That approach was consistent with the philosophy of section 1 of the Children Act 1989. His Lordship rejected the submission that nevertheless his approach was inconsistent with sections 38(6) and 43(8) and paragraphs 4 and 5 of Schedule 3.

His Lordship also rejected the submission that the judge's judgment did not sufficiently show that he had given due weight to J's wishes. On the facts as they then were, his decision was plainly right.

Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Nolan delivered judgments concurring in the result.

Solicitors: J. M. Somerton: Miss K. L. Tripp: Official Solicitor.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS

said that although there

was no right of appeal from a social security appeal tribunal in respect of matters of fact there was

Sentencing on consequences

Regina v Steel

In cases of reckless driving the consequences as well as the quality of the driving were relevant when determining the appropriate sentence.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Latham) so held on July 9 in allowing an appeal by Mark Jonathan Steel against a sentence of 15 months imprisonment imposed in January 1992 at Reading

Court (Judge Spence) for reckless driving and reducing it to 12 months.

MR JUSTICE TUDOR EVANS said that there was a clear distinction between cases where personal injury was caused by an error amounting to careless driving and cases where such injury was caused by reckless driving. That was shown by the nature of the offence and the state of mind of the offender in a case of reckless driving. Unforeseen consequences

might be relevant (*R v Krawiec* (1984) 6 Cr App R (S) 37).

In the Court of Appeal's view, when sentencing in cases of reckless driving where personal injury had been caused by an error amounting to careless driving, a judge had to consider and give full weight to all the facts and circumstances, including the gravity of the consequences of the driving.

This was a bad case but not at the top of the scale. In view of all the circumstances, a proper sentence was one of 12 months.

Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Nolan delivered judgments concurring in the result.

Solicitors: J. M. Somerton: Miss K. L. Tripp: Official Solicitor.

Regina v Social Security Commissioner, Ex parte Patni

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Nolan and Lord Justice Scott

[Judgment July 8]

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court

July 15 1992

Regina v Hendon Justices, Ex parte Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Justice Mann, Mr Justice French and Mr Justice Thorpe

[Judgment July 8]

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